BRISTOL CHRONOLOGY 1915.

THE CITY IN WAR TIME.

PRICE TWOPENCE.

Reprinted from the
"WESTERN DAILY PRESS," BRISTOL.

TERENCE BRYANT
1980
BRISTOL COLLECTION

FEATURES OF

BRISTOL LIFE IN A REMARKABLE YEAR

By G. F. STONE.

(ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.)

THE WESTERN DAILY PRESS,
BRISTOL EVENING NEWS, BRISTOL OBSERVER.

Telephone Nos.:
EDITORIAL & REPORTING DEPARTMENTS - - 492
ADVERTISING DEPARTMENT - - - - - - 1217

BRISTOL:
PUBLISHED BY WALTER REID & SON, LTD.

FEATURES OF
BRISTOL LIFE
IN A
REMARKABLE YEAR

A visitor to Bristol at almost any time in 1915 might have been struck by the number of soldiers mingling with the crowds in the streets and forming part of the audiences at places of amusement, and, further. he could scarcely fail to notice the fact that city and suburban streets were less brilliantly illuminated at night than they were eighteen months ago. From these two outstanding facts there would be no escape, but apart from them, unless he possessed unusually acute powers of observation, the stranger would have seen nothing to indicate that the greatest war in the history of the world was in progress. More minute examination of the affairs of the community would, however, show that there was scarcely a department of its many-sided life that had not been affected directly or indirectly.

The diminution in street lighting, commenced in obedience to a military order, continued, and was even extended when the rule was relaxed, the reason being a determination on the part of the civic authorities to curtail expenditure wherever possible. The same desire has caused a postponement of several public works that would otherwise have been taken in hand, and has led to a close examination of municipal budgets in order that a lessened rating demand may set free money for State purposes. Some of these changes have yet to make their effect felt, but so far the call on the ratepayers has been reduced 4d in the £1, which, assuming the decrease continues for a year, is equivalent to rather over £28,000.

How far a similar spirit of economy has produced an influence in private life it is difficult to say. It is to be feared that the campaign in favour of thrift has left very many untouched, and that in thousands of homes in Bristol and elsewhere there has been no realisation of the important part that individual saving might play at a period of extraordinary financial stress. One difficulty is that inflated prosperity has helped to blind people to the true situation. Although prices for many commodities have been high, the more regular work owing to the shortage of labour, and, in many instances, the increase in pay, have lessened the hardships that would have otherwise been serious. At the commencement of the war it was apprehended that the vast industrial dislocation following interference with foreign trade, would produce widespread distress, and an elaborate organisation was called into being to relieve the suffering by grants from the Prince of Wales's National Fund. It was found that the forebodings were unrealised; there was less poverty than usual, and the Ward Committees suspended operations early in the summer, leaving any cases that might arise to be dealt with by the central body. According to the experience of a schoolmaster in a working class district of the city, the children have never been better looked after than since the war broke out. Under the earlier normal conditions the family exchequer was often ill-provided, owing sometimes to irregular work, at others to unwise expenditure on drink; the war, by calling away the breadwinner, has secured those remaining a dependable allowance, and thus in not a few cases the condition of the family has been better than before

While this theory indicates defects in our social system, it is but fair to say that comparative statistics published during the year (referring to a slightly earlier period) show that the ratios of drunkenness and crime revealed by Police Court returns are both much lower in Bristol than in large centres in the North of England. So marked was this difference in the figures that one of the licensing trade organisations of this district urged the Central (Liquor Traffic) Control Board that its restrictive regulations should not be applied to this city. That argument was fruitless, and there was some evidence that had Bristol been exempted, protests

would probably have been forthcoming against that course, particularly in regard to the conditions at the river's mouth docks. From the autumn of 1914, by military regulation, public houses were required to close earlier than before (no intoxicants could be served after 9 p.m.), and on August 10 there came into force a much more drastic Order framed by the Control Board. This reduced the hours for selling intoxicants to five and a-half daily (noon to 2.30 and 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on weekdays), and introduced further restrictions designed to prevent people indulging in week-end drinking in their homes. Another important feature was the prohibition of treating unless in the case of a person who desired to entertain a friend at a meal. These regulations are not peculiar to Bristol, but, while extended to many important areas, have not been made general. They have produced many protests against the hardship and loss inflicted on licensees, but, on the other hand, have been criticised in certain quarters (the Unionist 'Spectator,' for instance) as not going far enough.

Having more or less relation to the subject just referred to may be mentioned the fact that there have been numerous prosecutions and convictions at the Bristol Police Court, of seamen and others employed aboard ship, who have neglected to join the vessel for which they had signed on. Many of these steamships were transports, and without going into detail, it may be stated that the docks at Avonmouth have been called upon to play an extremely important part in the national service. They have been crowded with shipping, larger vessels have entered the Royal Edward Dock than ever before, and a great amount of repair work has been carried on by the various firms who have established workshops on dock property. In regard to normal dock business, perhaps no advance has been more noticeable than that of the importation and distribution of petroleum and its products.

The ceaseless activity at Avonmouth has led to a serious shortage of houses in the locality, and has given rise to a large intercourse with Bristol, carried on by the Tramways Company's motor 'buses. Railway communication with Avonmouth, never as adequate as some would like, has been slightly curtailed since the war, hence the importance of the road service between Avonmouth and the Tramways Centre. It has given a local importance to the problem of the construction and maintenance of highways, and on several occasions reports have been presented and

statements made with regard to the cost to the municipality in road repairs, consequent on traffic of this nature.

The option given under the general law to acquire the Bristol Tramways at what for brevity is called "plant value" (the value from goodwill being excluded), arose in 1915. Attempts to arrange with the Company a scheme on which the Council might be recommended to leave the tramways in the Company's hands for a further period, revealed a wide divergence of opinion between the two sides. At one time, the Company publicly announced that negotiations were broken off, but further communications passed, and then the matter was temporarily put aside by recourse to the powers of a special general Act passed in 1915 to meet cases of the kind. The financial requirements of the war, in many instances, precluded sanctions for the issue of fresh capital by Corporations and companies, and Bristol was therefore not in a position to buy the tramways if minded to do so. (The decision of a majority of the electorate, polled in 1914, was in favour of purchase.) The Council consequently decided to apply for the extension of the option period under the terms of the Emergency Act governing such cases.

Labour disputes in Bristol during 1915 have been few and unimportant. Difficulty from shortage of labour, however, has been very general, and is expected to become more acute as groups are called up under Lord Derby's scheme. The Bristol Recruiting Committee has continued its painstaking work throughout the whole period under review, and, while at times it seemed as if the resources of this locality in available men of military age were very nearly exhausted, the closing days of the Derby scheme upset all calculations, and produced offers of service from more men than anybody dreamed would come forward. The experience of the concluding week will not be readily forgotten by those who had to cope with this rush; perhaps no more striking illustration of what was accomplished could be given than in the fact that on the concluding Saturday the number attested at Colston Hall was sufficient to form a brigade of between 5,000 and 6,000 strong. Some of the recruits thus admitted at almost the last hour will presumably not pass the medical examination, which, owing to the pressure, had to be postponed, and

others will be found indispensable to industries with which they are concerned; but, nevertheless, Bristol's contribution must have been a very substantial one.

Gradually girls and women have found employment in situations rendered vacant by the departure of male employés. The change has been comparatively inconspicuous. There has been no great outward and visible sign of it like that seen at Birmingham, for example, where 600 women were engaged as tram conductors. Still, many ladies have taken positions in offices, banks, and shops, and the number is obviously destined to increase. Women have been largely employed at the Post Office to fill gaps and to assist in meeting the Christmas pressure. In this connection, it has to be remembered that in the ordinary course of things Bristol industries employ a considerable amount of female labour. A large number of members of the police force had joined the colours, and their places were taken by citizens acting as unpaid special constables. Prominent Bristolians appeared on the beats allotted to them, and among them a stalwart Cathedral Canon. The services of these men evoked warm praise from the new Chief Constable.

The demand for boys has been unprecedented. Enlistments from the Tramways Company's staff have been very numerous, and on several routes the motor 'bus services were abandoned owing to this difficulty. Small boys fresh from school have been paid 19s a week as conductors, and on several occasions toward the end of the year figures were made public indicative of the abnormal earnings. In the course of a prosecution against several apprentices, in December, it appeared that one, aged 18, earned 39s 11d for the week; another, aged 17, was paid 27s 5d; a boy of 15 received 27s 7½d, and another of the same age 24s. They were employed in an engineering workshop. In a case that came before the Bristol Munitions' Court it was stated that in a large establishment unskilled workers were paid 32s a week. In many instances where the standard wages remained at the old rate opportunities occurred of greatly increasing the week's earnings by overtime, although this, particularly when accompanied

by Sunday duty, raised questions with regard to the overtax on the workers' strength with a consequent loss of efficiency. In a few vocations an opposite effect was produced, and the war was followed by reduced remuneration; but the published reports of certain concerns indicated a period of unusual prosperity, and one in which bad debts were fewer than usual. The latter statement has been confirmed by the small number of cases of bankruptcy in the Bristol district.

Happily, while certain commodities have been dear, and while tradesmen's orders for some kinds of proprietary goods have been only partly executed, there has been no shortage of food. The abundant stocks in the establishments of grocers, provision merchants, confectioners, butchers, greengrocers—of all distributors of the products consumed in daily life—have appeared to the public the same as usual; no sign of depletion has been noticeable. But in other classes of business, and particularly in the establishments of hosiers, drapers, and chemists the public have learned from the war that for many things in ordinary use we were dependent upon Germany and Austria. The enemy occupation of Belgium has also produced its effect in shutting off manufactures formerly received from that country. Much has been heard of a reorganisation of our industries so as to supply these deficiencies, and to secure for Great Britain trade in neutral countries which are left without their accustomed supplies of manufactures from the Central European nations. Reports tend to show the ready success that attends such efforts, but unfortunately the invitation to British producers came at a time when it was extremely difficult to embark on fresh enterprises. What part Bristol took in the movement is unknown; at the "London Leipzig" fair Bristol was represented, but nothing like to the extent that some centres were.

A large amount of work has been done in this locality on behalf of sufferers from the war, and the arrangements for the transit of wounded soldiers from Temple Meads to the military hospitals have been warmly praised by experts. To the fine accommodation of the Edward VII. Memorial Wing of the Royal Infirmary was added that of the new Southmead Hospital built by the Bristol Guardians for infirm poor, but not yet used for that purpose. Later, when further room was re-

quired, an arrangement was made to take over nine or ten Council schools and convert them into hospitals. This was not carried into effect, but the patients having been removed from the Bristol Lunatic Asylum, Fishponds, and despatched to other similar institutions in the country, this fine range of buildings was utilised, and named the Beaufort Military Hospital. It has the largest capacity (1,000) of either of the Bristol centres. Good work has also been done at Bishop Knoll, the residence of Mr R. E. Bush, which was turned into a hospital by its public spirited owner. Foye House, Leigh Woods, rendered available in the same way by another citizen, has also proved a useful auxiliary. Entertainments to convalescent soldiers have been numerous, and the Australian representatives, of whom Bristol has had many, have had a cordial local reception. The hospitality of residents to soldiers billeted in Bristol was one of the pleasing features of the year, and farewell letters from commanding officers in several instances referred to the kindness shown their men and to the pleasant memories that would follow the stay of their battalions in the city. The inspection of the Bristol hospitals for soldiers by the King and Queen and by the Canadian Premier, Sir Robert Borden, have been among the pleasing events of the year.

In the manufacture of war material the city has played an important part, and in consequence of the operation of the Munitions Act there have been numerous sittings of the local tribunal, at which points arising between employers and their workpeople have been the subject of inquiry. Complaints brought before the Bristol court have not been of a serious character, and the procedure of a tribunal, of which Mr E. H. C Wethered is chairman, has worked very smoothly. Bristol has given its name to and become the headquarters of a huge munitions district extending over many counties. This is part of the organisation which followed the appointment of Mr Lloyd George as Minister of Munitions.

Comparatively little change has been produced in the city by the erection of new buildings or the demolition of old. The most important alteration of this nature is in Queen's Road, where the Blind Asylum has been demolished to make way for the new frontage and tower of the University. Less apparent, but forming part of the same scheme, is the removal of the Bristol Rifle Corps (4th Batt. Gloucester Regiment) headquarters to a site in

another part of the city. To complete their plans the University authorities required rather more land than that of the Blind Asylum, and their neighbours, the City Council, also needed space for an enlargement of the Museum and Art Gallery. Consequently the Rifle headquarters were bought and the area divided, the cost being proportionately met. For the civic scheme the whole of the land behind the Art Gallery has been secured. Fine new headquarters for the Rifles were erected in Old Market Street on the site formerly occupied by the Bristol Sugar Refinery—the last of these industries in the city. The demolition of "the island" at the juncture of Rupert and Christmas Streets has changed the appearance of a long familiar part of Bristol and facilitated public traffic, particularly that of the tramways. (The company contributed to the scheme.) One of the enormous new tobacco warehouses sanctioned by the Council was commenced in the autumn on the ground adjoining Clift House; the structure is being erected in ferro-concrete. It is intended to erect a second warehouse in the same locality. The Health Committee have built a new sanatorium for consumptives at Ham Green, and the Baths Committee's project for swimming and other baths in Gloucester Road, Bishopston, has made considerable progress. Several schools and other municipal schemes have been held up owing to the war, but considerable outlay on new plant for the business of the Electrical Committee has been sanctioned. The increased utilisation of electrical energy for power purposes was the chief reason for this new departure. In the provision of dwelling-houses, especially of the smaller type, there has been practically a standstill; voids have been few, and complaints have been frequently heard of shortage of accommodation and of higher rents. Bristol is one of the centres affected by the Sutton bequest for building working class dwellings. The trustees had taken some action towards carrying out the testator's wishes in this city, but their plans have been postponed owing to the war.

JANUARY.

1.—Bristol City Council. The Lord Mayor, in his New Year's address, said a letter received from Mr T. Holmes Gore, the Magistrates' Clerk, reported that the work of

the Police Court during the past year had been less than for many years past. There had been 300 fewer men and women brought before the magistrates. To-day, the number of cases was less than forty years ago. The Postmaster-General sent some interesting figures. Seventy-three million letters and parcels were posted in Bristol, being 1¼ per cent. increase; 75,400,000 letters and parcels were delivered. Four million telegraphic messages were sent, being 130,000 increase over the previous year. With regard to telephonic conversations, there were 13½ millions, an increase of 41 per cent. Of trunk telephone calls, there were one and a half millions, an increase of 7 per cent. Shipping had increased half a million tons above the aggregate for 1913, but goods tonnage was less, owing to interference with continental trade. Customs produced £7,498,291, a large increase on 1913. The amount of duty received on tobacco at Bristol was £6,180,433, an increase of £561,401.

The Council approved of the extension of the Novers Hill infectious hospital at a cost of £7,704. The scheme provided 24 additional beds for patients, and 20 in the administration block. It was stated that owing to the inadequate accommodation, numbers of scarlet fever patients had had to be refused admission to city hospitals in the latter part of 1913, and beginning of 1914; although improved treatment had in effect enlarged hospital capacity by shortening the average stay from 55 to 35 days. An arrangement was agreed to with the Gloucestershire Education Committee, with respect to border children.

Among New Year's honours was an earldom for Lord St. Aldwyn, formerly Sir Michael Hicks-Beach.

The G.W.R. "uniformed" staff made a presentation to Mr Charles Kislingbury, ex-divisional superintendent for Bristol district. It was the first of a series. (See January 15, 19, and 21.)

A thousand Belgian refugees entertained at a New Year's treat in Bristol; the Lord Mayor spoke; King Albert sent a representative.

2.—Funeral of Mrs T. F. C. May (83). Rev. Ferrier Hulme spoke of her many good works for religion and philanthropy.

3.—(Sunday.) Intercession services, in relation to the war, held in Bristol.

4.—The Recorder, Dr. Blake Odgers, in charg-

ing the Grand Jury at the Quarter Session, alluded to the diminution of crime in Bristol and the country generally. He offered no opinion whether this was due to the sobering effect of the war.

Owing to heavy rainfall, flooding in low-lying districts of the country was reported, but Bristol escaped the serious consequences experienced elsewhere. The water was described as "like a sea" at Keynsham on the river's bank meadows. Inundations in Somerset moorlands were extensive. The December rainfall in Bristol (Durdham Down), was reported to be 7.17 inches, and January opened with much rain. The corresponding December rainfall in 1913 was 2½ inches, 1912, 6.55, and 1911, 7.03.

5.--Dock statistics for 1914 showed that business had, on the whole, been well maintained, in spite of war, while shipping tonnage, thanks to many transports for the Government using Avonmouth accommodation, had increased considerably.

	1913.	1914.	
No. of vessels	9,053	8,882 —	171
Registered tonnage...	2,558,628	2,993,089 +	434,461

Grain imports had decreased 50,000 tons, but those in wheat were the largest on record. It was stated that Government transports accounted for 400,000 tons of the shipping.

At the Health Committee, the summary for 1914 showed that the death rate was 13.8, compared with 13 in 1913, and 13.9 the ten years' average. The birth rate was 21.4. Scarlet fever had been prevalent, but the case mortality low.

The Gloucestershire Joint Committee decided to continue the use of Lawford's Gate Court House, if terms could be arranged with Bristol Corporation. (The Corporation afterwards extended the term of letting.)

Up to date, £27,476 had been subscribed to the Bristol section of the Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund, and £20,000 remitted. £1,500 had been received back by the local Committee for relief work. Considerable sums, however, had been locally distributed by the Soldiers and Sailors' Families' Association.

It was reported that the s.s. Bonaventura had brought the largest canned goods cargo ever received at Bristol, viz., 47,606 cases from San Francisco. The previous biggest cargo of this sort was 33,900 cases.

Death of Rev. David Foulkes Roberts (64), formerly minister of Staple Hill Congregational Church.

6.—For the enlargement of accommodation at the Temple Meads Railway Station, the G.W.R. required about two-thirds of the Cattle Market. The consequent alterations in the market commenced at this time, and included the rebuilding of the Cattle Market Tavern. (See October 14.)

7.—At Bristol market, the price of English wheat advanced from 45s to 50s per quarter. Foreign wheat advanced 4s on the week. The same night, the Bakers' Association decided to increase the price of bread one half-penny, making the two qualities 6½d and 7d per 4lb. loaf, the increase to take effect on the 11th. The increase was ascribed to high freightage, owing to shortage of labour and use of many vessels by Government. High charges by trans-Atlantic holders of stocks was an important contributory cause. (See Jan. 25 and Feb. 8.)

The death occurred in London, of the Rev. Richard Richard, formerly minister of Cotham Grove Baptist Church.

8.—It was announced that Mr W. W. Squire, the Bristol Docks Engineer, and the designer (in conjunction with the consulting engineers), of the Royal Edward Dock, had placed his resignation in the hands of the Docks Committee, owing to serious prolonged illness. On the heels of the announcement, came the news of his death this morning. (See Feb. 9 and March 9.)

Death of Miss Sophia Wright (92), formerly the head of a well-known school for girls carried on at Knowle.

9.—Death of Mr Robert Fowler Sturge (79), land steward to the Corporation. He kept records of local weather for 53 years.

10.—Five transports arrived at Avonmouth with troops and their families from India. Some what serious results followed the outbreak of measles aboard.

11.—Bristol Stock Exchange re-opened. It had been closed since July 30, 1914.

12.—About this time the Road Board promised £1,800 towards improving the roads into the city from Filton and Avonmouth.

13.—In a house-to-house appeal by the National League of the Blind (Bristol branch), it was stated: "There are nearly 400 sightless persons in Bristol, of whom only 79 are permanently employed. By far the largest proportion of the remainder are to be found either seeking a subsistence in our streets, or otherwise dependent upon charitable effort, 104 are recipients of Poor Law Relief, both indoor and outdoor."

14.—Ladies' night of the Madrigal Society had special interest. It was the fiftieth year Mr D. W. Rootham, the conductor, had wielded the bâton, and this, his final appearance, was made the occasion for presenting him with a silver rose bowl and a cheque for £150. The Society "old boys" gave Mr Rootham a pair of silver candlesticks.

At a meeting of dairy farmers, it was stated that Bristol's milk bill (wholesale) was £1,000 a day, while the retail account would be £500,000 a year. Something like 24s per head of the population was paid each year for milk. (The retail price for milk delivered to households continued to be 4d per quart, but at the close of the year was raised to 5d.)

At Bristol market, English wheat rose from 50s to 53s per quarter. Foreign advanced about 2s 6d to 3s.

Death of Mr George Chambers, draper, Wine Street.

15.—Presentations by staff, colleagues, and others, to Mr Charles Kislingbury on his retirement from the position of Divisional Superintendent (Bristol) of the G.W.R. This was one of several gatherings at which regard was expressed for Mr Kislingbury, and presentations made him. Mr H. R. Griffiths was the new Divisional Superintendent. (See January 1.)

Rainfall continued to be excessive, and many ascribed the conditions to firing in the war. The Meteorological Office did not accept this theory.

17.—Sudden death of the Lady Mayoress, Mrs J. Swaish. Mrs Freeman, one of the Lord Mayor's married daughters, subsequently acted as Lady Mayoress.

19.—Air raid on East coast; considerable damage done by bombs at Yarmouth and King's Lynn, and four civilians killed. A German account stated that 19 aircraft took part; aeroplanes and airships were used. Results were small in relation to the preparations for the attack. ((From time to time at subsequent dates further aerial raids occurred, and in the autumn many were killed or injured by bombs dropped on London.)

Public presentation to Mr Kislingbury at Council House. (See January 1.)

At the Health Committee it was stated that 4,000 houses had been inspected by officials, and 503 reported unfit for habitation.

20.—The Council of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, passed resolutions urging the

Government to facilitate the manufacture of aniline dyes in Britain, by adequate tariff protection, for at least ten years after the termination of the war. The stoppage of the supply of German dyes threatened serious industrial effects.

21.—G.W.R. directors presentation to Mr C. Kislingbury. (See January 1.)

22.—The Bristol Guardians decided to send a number of boys and girls to Canada. Opponents stated that there was a shortage of boys in the English labour market.

23.—The Lord Mayor issued a notice advising the public that any aircraft raid on the city would be notified by the sounding of hooters, when citizens were advised to keep within their houses, and all outside lights should be extinguished.

24.—(Sunday.) A number of fast, powerful German battle cruisers were chased by British naval ships in the North Sea, while on their way to take part in another raid on the English coast. One, the Blücher, was sunk, and two others damaged. It subsequently appeared that a German light cruiser had been sunk. No British ships were lost

25.—Another half-penny per 4lb. loaf increase in the price of bread, making 1½d advance since the war. Many complaints were made at the increasing cost of necessaries. A variety of causes contributed to this, the high freights and delays at docks being among them. Bristol dock delays were not so serious as those on the Thames and Mersey, where ships remained a long time undischarged, owing to shortage of labour, railway trucks, storeroom, and cartage. (See January 7.)

Mr C. E. Hobhouse and Mr A. Henderson (then leader of the Labour Party), addressed a large recruiting meeting in Bristol. It was stated that Bristol had so far contributed between 12,000 and 14,000 recruits, exclusive of reservists, and that employment on Government work prevented many joining.

26.—Funeral of Mr Fred Irwin, at one time landlord of the Three Queens, an ancient inn in Thomas Street. He was aboard the Great Western with his father at the launch. For some time he was a prominent member of the Bristol Histrionic Society.

27.—The number of refugee Belgians on the lists of the Bristol Committee as resident in Bristol, was 1,420.

Presentation to Mr A. A. Allen, 25 years secretary of Old King Street Baptist Chapel Sunday school.

A white blackbird reported to have been seen in Cranbrook Road fields.

28.—Scarcity of coal threatened the closing of Bristol schools. The Education Committee left discretion in this matter to the chairman and vice-chairman. One or two of the schools had already been closed, owing to the absence of fuel for the heating apparatus. The weather was very cold, although frosts were not severe. It was hoped to meet the school difficulty by hauling coke.

29.—Mr Ernest J. Sparshatt, secretary of Clift House Tannery, Bedminster, killed at Yatton while endeavouring to enter a moving train.

Insurance on property against the full war risks could at this time be effected in Bristol for 2s 6d per cent. for private houses and contents, and 3s 6d for business premises. In London and the East coast, the charge was much higher.

30.—Mr Hiliare Belloc lectured in Bristol on the war. He contended that the tide had not yet turned, and said the enemy still had under arms a number greater than the Allies.

31.—News received that German submarines had started the destruction of British vessels on the high seas without notice to crews. (See February 18.)

FEBRUARY.

1.—On the Bristol insurance panel doctors' lists there were at this time 106,704 insured persons. Prescriptions in 1914 exceeded 1,000 a day.

A meeting convened by the Trades Council, held at Kingsley Hall, "to protest against the rise in prices of the necessaries of life."

At the annual meeting of the Bristol Civic League, the necessity of improved housing and of provision for tuberculous children was strongly urged.

An appeal to the justices by the licensed trade organisations, to relax the military rule prohibiting the sale of intoxicants after nine p.m., was refused.

The Lord Mayor sent a letter to General Botha, Premier of South Africa, referring to his magnificent service, and expressing

pride that he was an hon. freeman of the city.

Death of Captain T. Hoskins Gore, formerly of the Bristol City Line, afterwards head of the North Atlantic Steamship Company and then nautical expert.

2.—Death of the Rev. C. G. C. Lillingston, vicar of Christ Church, Clifton.

3.—In a remarkable case at Bristol Police Court, a Somerset defendant was fined £25 (including costs), with the alternative of three months' imprisonment, for defrauding the Government of a penny stamp. It was explained that the matter arose from certain bookmakers accepting bets posted before mid-day, the post office time stamp being accepted as evidence by them. The allegation was that a letter was posted earlier than this at Burnham to a Burnham address, which was written in pencil. It thus bore the Burnham time stamp. It was re-addressed several hours later, and re-posted at Bristol to the bookmaker, and in the meantime the result of the race was known. The bet made with this knowledge was accepted by the bookmaker, in the faith of the Burnham stamp, but he was settled with when the 'modus operandi' was discovered.

5.—The Bristol Guardians presented their clerk, Mr J. J. Simpson, with a rose bowl and album, on the completion by him of 40 years' service. It was stated that the Board's staff numbered 384 persons.

Death of Mr W. Henderson (66), solicitor.

Dedication of a chapel formed in the south transcept of St. Mary's, Tyndall's Park. The work was aided by gifts in memory of Mr and Mrs John Boucher, by their sons and daughters.

Death at Sheffield of Dr. Stanley Riseley (47), eldest surviving son of Mr H. L. Riseley.

7.—Death of Sir Henry Miles (73), of Leigh Court, son of Sir William Miles. Sir Henry was the fourth baronet.

8.—Mr Charles Turner, an employé of Sir W. H Davies, received a congratulatory letter from the King, on having eight sons serving in the Navy and Army.

Best bread advanced in Bristol to 8d per 4lb. loaf. (It remained at this figure throughout the year—see January 7).

9.—City Council met. After a long discussion on the proposed salary (£1,000, rising by £100 increments, to £1,200). Mr T. A. Peace, assistant docks engineer, was appointed as successor to Mr W. W. Squire, deceased.

(See January 8.) The Council later considered a resolution by Alderman Pearson, that no grant or honorarium exceeding £50 be made by a Committee to an officer of the Corporation, without the Council's sanction. This general motion gave rise to references to the grant of £1,500 by the Docks Committee to the widow of Mr Squire. There was a specific resolution on this later in the agenda. The Council adopted Alderman Pearson's resolution as above, but adjourned, in consequence of the lateness of the hour before completing the agenda. (See March 3.) A further extension of the petroleum business of the port was foreshadowed by the leasing by the Council of additional land at Portishead, to the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, and the matter was understood to have a bearing on national events. The Council discussed the high prices of food and coal on a resolution by Mr Senington, a labour member, urging that the Government should take over supplies to prevent the public being charged extortionate sums. The resolution was altered, by consent, so as to ask the Government to take such steps as might seem desirable. In the modified form it was carried. The Council agreed to lease a site at Canons' Marsh, for the erection of new business premises; the terms worked out at £9,030 per acre, and it was stated that in the vicinity, the Corporation had bought land at the rate of £300,000 per acre. The rest of the Ham Green Estate was transferred to the Health Committee, who were about to erect a sanatorium for consumptives there.

10.—In opening Bristol Assize, Justice Scrutton alluded in congratulatory terms, to the small amount of crime in Bristol and the area of the Western circuit.

Local Government Board inquiry into a proposal by the Council, to borrow £2,000, for turning No. 3, King Square into a municipal lodging-house for women. The project was influentially supported, but opposed by a representative of the Bristol Ratepayers' Association. The Local Government Board sanctioned the loan, but afterwards held up the scheme owing to the war.

Count Goblet d'Alviella, Belgian Minister, and Vice-President of the Belgian Senate, visited Bristol. He spoke highly of British hospitality to Belgians

11.—Bristol Juvenile Advisory Committee reported that one result of the war had been

to create an extraordinary demand for boy labour. With certain exceptions, girls were also in demand. Numerous children worked a twelve-hour day.

The Sanitary Committee gave their approval to the proposal of a special Committee, which had been considering the congestion of Bristol Bridge. The plan was to bring Knowle tram cars through to the Centre, abolishing the present terminus to the Knowle line by St. Nicholas Church, and to move the Morley Statue to Colston Avenue or the Centre. Proposed bridges at Counterslip and Redcliff Back were put aside as impracticable at the present juncture. The Watch Committee had previously approved of the plan. (The scheme was not carried out. (See October 20.)

At a meeting of the Vigilance Society, reference was made to the way in which young girls lost their heads, and forced their attention upon soldiers in streets and parks. Women patrols in Bristol had, it was stated, done useful work.

Death at Winscombe, of Mr F. A. Knight, a writer on West country subjects, and at one time master of Sidcot Friends' School.

13.—Conference of temperance workers, the Bishop presiding. A resolution urged that advantage should be taken of the political truce to shorten the hours for the sale of intoxicants all over the Kingdom by Imperial authority, instead of by local order, and to continue such limitation for at least a year after the end of the war, to enable the matter to be dealt with by special legislation.

14.—At a meeting of railwaymen in Bristol, a settlement with the companies giving men increased pay in the form of a bonus, was announced.

15.—At the annual meeting of the West Gloucestershire Water Company, it was announced that boring at Shipton Moyne had revealed a copious supply, doubling the resources of the company. Great difficulty had at times been experienced in maintaining the supply to certain areas, owing to the quantity from Frampton Cotterell colliery workings proving less than anticipated.

At the master butchers meeting, it was stated that stock prices (in 1914), had been the highest for 28 years.

Captain R. B. Melville Wills fatally shot while assisting a wounded officer at the front. (During the year many well-known Bristol families had to mourn the loss of sons in the war.)

16.—Opening of St. Gabriel's Parish Hall.

17.—Attention was drawn to the fact that for some time a great colony of birds had found a home in the recesses of the elaborate carved front of the Union of London and Smiths Bank, Corn Street. The birds (presumably the same), had for a time lodged in the trees at Colston Avenue, and occasionally made a curious spectacle, perched in hundreds on the scaffolding used in St. Stephen's Church restoration.

18.—This was the day appointed by the Germans for launching their attack on English maritime commerce, which they imagined would starve Britain out in three weeks. Their policy created great strain with America, in consequence of neutral vessels being warned that if they ventured into British waters they would be treated as enemies. A large number of vessels were subsequently destroyed, many of them belonging to neutral countries, and in numerous cases utter indifference was shown to the risk or loss of the lives of non-combatants. (See January 31.)

22.—Sir George White dealt with the tramway purchase question in addressing the shareholders of the Tramways and Carriage Co. to-day. He stated that owing to the advance in the price of materials and labour now would be a good time for the company to sell, but he warned the Corporation that the company's claim would exceed two millions. He expressed his desire to avoid a split in the Council and offered to consider any reasonable proposal. The memorandum of association of the company was amended so as to give it the power to make and sell aircraft, motor-boats, and other vessels, ammunition, &c., and to take over any company engaged in similar branches of engineering. (See March 18 and 31, June 19, 30, July 29, and Sept. 14.)

The Docks Committee decided to ask for £104,000 as the rate-in-aid for the year ending April 30, 1916. Figures showed a steady decrease from the maximum £154,000 levied in 1910.

23—Mr G. A. Wills announced to the meeting of the Imperial Tobacco Company that the prosperity of the undertaking had increased each year. Net profits for the year ended October 31, 1914, were £3,533,359. The directors again decided upon a gift to employés at the rate of 9 per cent. on their remuneration, and an emergency allowance for all earning not more than £200 a year to meet the increased cost of living. 1,350 employés had enlisted.

Funeral of Mr G. Matthews, of the Tramways Company's carriage department.

25.—The prices of petroleum raised 1d, making the charges 10d and 11d per gallon for the two qualities.

The G.W.R. chairman told the shareholders that upwards of 10,000 of the employés were serving with the colours—12½ per cent. of the staff.

It was reported to the Education Committee that nine Council schools were to be taken by the War Department for hospitals. This would displace 10,000 scholars. Certain other schools would be worked on double shifts, 20,000 children thus becoming half-timers. (This did not come into operation.)

26.—Mr Hobhouse, M.P., was the chief speaker at a patriotic meeting at St. Philip's Vestry Hall. He took an optimistic view of the war position.

27.—Lady Smyth's will, about to be proved, provided that Ashton Court and the various estates should go to her daughter, the Hon. Mrs Irby, for life, and afterwards to her daughter, Miss Esme Irby, and her successors in tail male. It was directed that any successor becoming a Roman Catholic should forfeit the right to the estate. The property under the will was valued at £974,251 gross.

MARCH.

3.—Presentation at Council House to Mr B. M. Vernon, who, after seven months' help in recruiting work, had been given a commission.

8.—About this time there was issued a proclamation applicable to Bristol requiring a reduction of lighting in the streets as a precaution in case of an air-craft raid. The globes of arc lamps were painted so as to lessen the illumination; numerous lamps were extinguished, illuminated signs were stopped, and many streets were nightly in semi-darkness. A later order prohibited the use of powerful lights on motors. On April 16 the restrictions were all removed. (See April 16.)

Funeral of Mr J. A. Bird (a partner in Lavars and Co.), prominent in the affairs of old Castle Green Chapel.

At the General Hospital meeting a second representative of working class subscribers was placed on the committee.

9.—City Council meeting. A memorial from Westbury-on-Trym asked that certain

houses should not be removed until accommodation was found for those residing in them. Rate estimates gave rise to considerable speech making. (The rates were unchanged.) Mr A. J. Saise vigorously opposed that part of the Education Committee's estimate that provided a grant for bursaries for students at the University. His statements were challenged by Dr. Cook and Alderman Elkins, and Mr Saise's amendment was rejected. Sanction was given for the increase of dock dues by 5 per cent. each on goods and ships, to cover the extra cost of labour, &c., due to the war. Considerable discussion took place on a resolution by Mr Whitefield, that the Docks Committee ought not to have paid £1,500 to the widow of the late Dock Engineer, Mr W. W. Squire, without the Council's sanction The Dock Chairman explained the circumstances, and eventually the resolution was withdrawn. (See February 9.)

10.—Mrs Birrell, the wife of the Right Hon. Augustine Birrell, died after a long illness.

11.—Launch of s.s. West Coast from Hill's Dockyard. It was the largest vessel built in Bristol since the Bristol City, launched in 1899.

The scarcity of labour, and the continued demand for recruits and for operatives in factories producing things required for the war, led to authorities being circularised by the Local Government Board. It was urged that new schemes should be delayed, where possible, and even those started held up.

Death of Mr Crofton Hemmons, a well-known Bristol printer and publisher.

12.—Death of the Rev. B. Hartnell, for 34 years assistant master at Clifton College.

Death of Mr Edward Rowland (79), the senior of the Bristol pilots.

15.—Attention was called in the 'Western Daily Press' to the great shortage in Bristol of small houses. Voids among dwellings of this class were extremely few.

Tablets to the memory of Mr Joseph Storrs Fry and the Rev. W. Trevail unveiled at United Methodist Church, Eastville.

16.—A Joint Ruri-Decanal Conference discussed the question Should God-parents be qualified? One side favoured certain regulations to check abuses at present arising; the other deprecated any hindrance to baptism being performed in all cases presented. The matter was adjourned until April 27, which see.

17.—Opening of a Nursing Home at Kingswood; it was given to the district by Mr

W. Douglas, the motor cycle manufacturer.

18.—It was announced that the Tramways Option Committee had had another independent valuation of the undertaking purchasable on Tramway Act terms. The figure was £610,981. That of the experts previously consulted was £600,000. Between the two valuations the war had affected values. (See February 22.).

19.—Presentation at Council House to Mr H. L. Riseley in recognition of his efforts in many parts of the world on behalf of Bristol's commerce. He was given an address signed by a large number of representative citizens.

23.—Annual meeting of the Royal Infirmary. Reference was made to the use of the new part of the Institution as a Military Hospital, and a letter read from the General Officer Commanding in Chief recognising the generous and patriotic spirit of the Governors of the Royal Infirmary in having placed this superb Institution at the disposal of his Majesty's Forces at the time of this great national crisis.

24.—It was announced that Mr F. J. Fedarb had resigned the secretaryship of the Bristol Y.M.C.A., St. James's Square, to devote himself to work at the military camps.

27.—Foundation stone laid of new Sunday school, Castle Green Congregational Church, Greenbank.

28.—Rev. A. N. Blatchford announced his impending departure from Lewin's Mead Unitarian Church after a ministry of 49 years.

29.—Mr Hobhouse spoke at Redfield on the Post Office and the war. Enormous work was entailed in the delivery of letters and parcels to our forces. One particular man inserted an advertisement in a newspaper describing his loneliness at the front and inviting correspondence, and three days afterwards the postal department delivered to him in the trenches no fewer than 3,000 letters. six bags of small parcels, and 90 large parcels, each weighing over 11 lbs.

A deputation of shipbuilders to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urged the total prohibition of the sale of excisable liquor during the war. This question gave rise to much discussion in Bristol and elsewhere.

A number of Volunteer bodies had been formed in Bristol, and joined by men who for various reasons had not felt themselves free to enlist in H.M. Forces, or who were ineligible to do so. Drill, miniature rifle

shooting, and long marches had occupied their spare time. The Army Council propounded rules for the recognition of such bodies, and to-day the Lord Mayor presided over a conference of representatives of the various associations, and a scheme was agreed to as a basis of their coalition. The idea was that as far as practicable each association would become a corps in the Bristol Volunteer Regiment; it was recognised, however, that some of the smaller associations would have to amalgamate. Details were left to be worked out in committee. (The services of the regiment were not utilised by the War Office during the year.)

Considerable indignation was caused by a German submarine having torpedoed the Falaba, a passenger steamship from Liverpool Many of those aboard were allowed to drown while the submarine crew watched the process and jeered the perishing. There were several Bristolians saved.

The tank steamer Arca having left Portishead Dock reached Walton Bay, where a Chinese boatswain, after advising others not to go into a part of the ship, went in himself and died from carbon dioxide, which had accumulated. Mr Hopper, third officer, lost his life in attempting a rescue, and the second officer was also overcome, but was saved.

30.—Bristol City Council met. It was agreed to let Lawford's Gate Court House at an enhanced rent, for a further two years, after the expiration of the present term, to the Gloucestershire County Justices, who desired to avoid a building scheme during the war. (See January 5.) The Council adopted a report recommending opposition to the Tramway Company's Bill extending the term of certain powers for the construction of new lines given in earlier Bills. (The Company afterwards came to an agreement with the city, so that the opposition was withdrawn.) Details were given of Bristol's work under the Mental Deficiency Act. It was stated the time would come when an institution for these cases would have to be provided by the Corporation. Alderman Pearson moved:—"That the Selection Committee be requested to consider and report to the Council as to whether any alteration is desirable in the resolution of the Council which provides that no salary of any officer or servant of the Corporation receiving above £156 per annum be raised without the sanction of the Council." After debate, the matter was deferred until after the war.

31.—The Tramways Company representatives and the Corporation Option Committee had had two meetings to see if terms could be agreed upon in consideration of which the Corporation at present would not exercise the option. The Company in a letter published to-day declined further negotiations. (See February 22.)

APRIL.

1.—Owing to the small amount of distress in Bristol, due to the war, it was announced that the Prince of Wales's Fund Ward Committees would cease operations for the summer, leaving the Central Committee to deal with the few remaining cases.

2.—Good Friday. A fine morning, but wet afterwards.

5.—Easter Monday was exceptional, owing to the stoppage of all excursions. The day was fine, but in the N.W. part of Bristol there was a drenching shower in the afternoon. At several of the Easter vestries references were made to the war.

The Rev. A. H. Sewell (Bishopston) announced his impending departure of his wife and himself to Serbia, to take part in religious work there during the war. Typhus and other diseases were raging in that country, and the courage involved in this mission was generally recognised.

8.—Funeral of Canon Capel, of Clifton.

An inquest was held on the remains of a man found in Leigh Woods. Two sets of relatives were inclined to identify the deceased, and the matter was set at rest by certain articles found with the body. The man had been lying in the woods so long that little more than a skeleton remained. The jury found that there was no evidence to show how death occurred.

10.—The impending departure of the Black Watch from Bristol gave rise to a pleasant gathering at Colston Hall, at which the Lord Mayor spoke. Soon after, in an appeal, through the Lord Mayor, to the public not to treat his soldiers, the Colonel stated that all but 50 of his battalion had resolved to touch no alcoholic beverages until the war was over (see April 21).

Annual meeting of Winsley Sanatorium. A new constitution under the Charitable Trusts Act was reported upon, and some reference made to the old controversy with the medical board.

11.—Death at Falmouth of Mr H. G. Doggett, a Bristol solicitor, who was for some time coroner for the city.

Death of Mr J. E. Jefferies (78), formerly a councillor for Redcliff. He was a bookseller.

12.—The Congregational Union of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire met at Stroud. The war provided themes for some of the speakers on this and the following day.

The Archdeacon of Bristol, in his charge, referred to the war having produced a profound distrust in Godless civilisation.

Miss Muriel Pratt commenced a six weeks' repertory season at the Theatre Royal.

13.—The denominational reports published in the Free Church Council Year Book contained a reference to the Baptist Sustentation Fund, which was completed within two years. "Bristol," it added, "has nobly played its part in this, not only in contributing £11,000 to it, but in furnishing one of of its most successful advocates up and down the country in the person of the Rev. F. G. Benskin, M.A."

At the Health Committee meeting it was stated that a consignment of 2,729 frozen carcases of pigs had been received from Canada. It was the first of the sort.

A meeting of shareholders and creditors was held in connection with the compulsory winding up of the Weston-super-Mare Grand Pier Company. An order had been made, and the liabilities were reported to be conconsiderable.

14.—It was announced that owing to the increased cost of various commodities penny shaves were being discontinued in Bristol by organised action, the minimum price being raised to 1½d.

Spring concert of the New Philharmonic Society at Grammar School Great Hall.

At the Clifton Zoo. meeting it was stated that Rajah, a growing elephant, consumed daily 7 cwt. of hay, nine sheaves of straw, 30 lbs. of bran, 18 lbs. of crushed oats, two large loaves of bread, and 1¾ cwt. of roots. The total cost of this was £2 a week. There was a slight reduction in "Rajah's" bill in the warmer weather.

16.—Lighting restrictions in Bristol cancelled by Commander-in-Chief of the Southern Command. (See March 8.) The civic authorities, however, afterwards decided upon a scheme of curtailed lighting from motives of economy. In central streets many of the arc lamps were not lighted, and it was unofficially reported that there was a shortage of carbons. In some cases the old arc pattern was replaced by a new high power incandescent electric lamp.

19.—At the Bristol Brotherhood Federation meeting the Rev. F. G. Benskin, in his presidential address, urged the necessity of the brotherhood ideal at this time of war.

20.—A Bristol Heavy Battery was to-day completed. The recruiting was remarkable for the number of Bristol policemen who joined —upwards of 60.

21.—Departure of the Black Watch for Camp. (See April 10.)

It was reported to the Watch Committee that so many Bristol police had enlisted that special constables would have to be employed. Later it was explained that each man volunteering would serve four hours' daily duty for a week. and would then have a time off. No pay was given. Much later in the year the Chief Constable. Mr Watson, spoke in high terms of the work of the specials. They received no pay, but where necessary were provided with overcoats, leggings. and heavy boots.

24.—Death of Captain J. Evans.

26.—Presentation at Russell Town Congregational Church, to the Rev. J. Trebilco, who had retired from the pastorate in September, 1914, after 30 years' service. It was stated by the rev. gentleman, in replying, that he had seen 1,800 souls join that church; he had buried 245 members, christened 1,000 persons, and married 1,200.

27.—A conference of clergy at the Chapter House decided upon certain rules with regard to God-parents and baptisms. (See March 16.) It was required that one of the God-parents should be a communicant.

The Health Committee were informed that the scheme for providing a municipal lodging house for women was held up by the Local Government Board owing to the war.

The Health Committee instructed one of their inspectors to take immediate steps to check the rat nuisance in the Cranbrook Road district, where much tipping was going on.

Of the 1,500 beds in Bristol common lodging houses, it was stated to the Health Committee that a large proportion were empty owing to the effect of the war on labour. The Municipal Lodging House was turning away clients.

28.—At Portishead District Council, complaint was made of rats from the Dock infesting the town. Steps were taken to deal with the nuisance.

29.—Mr Lloyd George announced the Government plan for dealing with the drink

question. He gave figures to prove that there was a considerable amount of abstention from work in munitions of war industries. State control or prohibition in special areas was coupled with heavy increases in taxation on alcholic liquors, light beers, however, escaping with much smaller increase than more stimulating beverages. The scheme was afterwards greatly modified, but the regulation of the trade was taken up by the Central (Liquor Traffic) Control Board. (See August 10.)

A meeting of engineering firms in Bristol, held at the invitation of the Lord Mayor, to see if further aid could be given in providing munitions of war. The Chamber of Commerce were asked to take action through a representative Committee. It appeared that varied work for the Government was already being done. Bristol houses were supplying the Government with aeroplanes, boots, building materials for huts, wooden, stone, and iron structures, clothing, cocoa, casting and small parts of machinery, constructional iron work, forgings for transport wagons, lead and shot, locomotives, motor cycles, nails and hardware, shell-forming lathes, steam ovens for baking the soldiers' food, furniture, galvanised iron manufactures, tobacco, canvas and sacking (large orders had come to Bristol for this industry), provisions, rope, cord, twine, saddlery, leather, timber, motors and transport appliances. Besides, marine repairs were carried on for the Government, and work of enormous importance done at the docks. Later the manufacture of war material was greatly increased.

30.—Death of Mr James Cann (64). He joined the Bristol Police Force as a constable and rose to be Chief. After 42 years' service he resigned, but did not long survive.

April had much less rainfall than the normal amount: a prevalence of cold winds and a concluding burst of brilliant hot weather characterised it.

A review of the shipping business of the month mentioned that the Rio de Plata, which brought a cargo of grain to the City Docks, was three or four feet longer than the Avon limit. The Haven Master was understood to be considering an extension of the limit, hitherto 325ft.

MAY.

1.—In a letter published to-day, the Bishop of Bristol discussed the drink question, in

relation to the war. He favoured State control in special areas, and urged voluntary abstinence rather than compulsory prohibition. His Lordship incidentally stated that he was a teetotaller, and felt that clergy and social workers would be more effective if they were the same.

At the annual meeting of Spillers and Bakers, Ltd., it was reported that a record profit had been made, viz., £367,000 in the year. The Chairman, Mr W. E. Nicholls, replied to critics, who charged the company with exploiting the nation's food, by pointing to the higher prices for bread in several parts of the world.

Opening of St. Andrew's Park bowling green by Alderman J. Boyd.

3.—Crowning the May Queen at Stoke Park Colony. The old mansion on the knoll near Duchess Pond had been utilised as an institution for children suffering from mental defects.

4.—At the Health Committee, a report with regard to small-pox, stated that a virulent type of case had been introduced from India, but it had been checked. Later it was announced that the precautionary measures had been completely successful.

Mr Lloyd George introduced his War Budget, supplementing his proposals in November, 1914.

7.—Mr Birrell spoke in Bristol on the war. He urged concentration, and alluded to the danger of various schools of politicians pushing their own particular ideas.

The s.s. Lusitania (31,550 tons register), sunk by German torpedoes off the Irish Coast; 1,389 persons, including 100 Americans lost their lives. There were several Bristol survivors. Public indignation at this outrage, coupled with the details of the sufferings of soldiers at the front, owing to the use by the Germans of chlorine gas, gave rise to anti-German riots in London and several other centres in the course of the next few days. There was no disturbance in Bristol

11.—The annual conference of the Beer, Spirit, and Wine Trade National Defence League opened in Bristol, and continued on the 12th. The trade outlook was described as "far from hopeful."

City Council meeting. In reply to a question, Dr. Wintle, the Chairman of the Health Committee, stated that reports with regard to the expected advent of numerous war babies were grossly exaggerated. (The Register-General's returns for the country,is-

sued several months later, showed a considerable decline of illegitimate births.) It was further stated that in Bristol there had been fewer convictions for drunkenness since the war. Changes at the Magistrates' Clerks' office consequent on Mr Thomas Holmes Gore, the clerk, after 40 years' service, desiring to be relieved of part of his duties were referred to a special committee. A proposed war bonus of 2s 6d per week to the police was referred to a special committee. It involved a cost of £2,723 per annum. Authority was given to the Electrical Committee to apply to the Local Government Board for sanction to raise £26,949 for additional plant, &c., to meet increasing business. Mr Witty moved the Health Commitee be instructed to take immediate steps to close all houses assertained to be unfit for habitation. An amendment was carried asking for a re-housing scheme. The chairman of the Health Committee said 508 were returned as unfit; 249 had been closed. Dr. Saise explained that altogether 6,832 houses had been inspected, 802 reported unfit. Some had been improved, and 179, while still unfit were occupied.

12—Bristol Eisteddfod opened.

13.—Popular indignation excited in certain towns by the Lusitania outrage, having led to anti-German riots, the enemy alien question became acute, and the Premier to-day made a statement of the Government's intentions. He stated that at that moment 19,000 were already interned; 24,000 non-naturalised men and 16,000 women were registered. Subject to appeal to a Committee, all adult males were to be segregated, or, if over military age, sent to the countries to which they belonged.

17—Annual meeting of the Bristol Chamber of Commerce. Speeches dealt largely with the effects of the war on railways and dock work, and on the need of the Government utilising business experience in dealing with the problems confronting the nation.

18—At the annual meeting of John Lysaght, Ltd., it was stated that 1,700 employés of the firm were serving with the Forces. This was 30 per cent. of employés of all ages.

Opening of the Bristol branch of the Royal Colonial Institute by Earl Grey. The scheme practically owed its inception and completion to Mr T. J. Lennard, who met the cost of the site and building.

20.—At this time stories came to hand showing that the North Somerset Yeomanry, which included many Bristol men, had suffered severely at the Western front.

At the Education Committee meeting reference was made to the shrinkage of attendance of elder children at school, and this was associated with the great demand for boy labour. The committee had been asked to allow 500 boys to become half-timers. Opposition to this proposal appeared chiefly to be governed by the loss of grant involved. The matter was referred to a special committee, and the chairman urged people to save labour by carrying their own parcels.

A sensational jump in the price of beef was reported at Bristol market. The following figures were noted:—May 20, 90s to 100s per cwt.; May 10, 85s to 90s; May 6, 83s to 88s. About the same period in 1914 the top price was 72s. Mutton was also much dearer. Yet in the fewness of bankruptcies and in reports of some of the public companies, evidence was given of a species of prosperity inflated by the huge war expenditure in this country.

21.—The Council of the University accepted a tender of Henry Willcock and Co., of Wolverhampton, for the erection of the tower and main buildings fronting Queen's Road. The tender exceeded the original estimate owing to variations in the plan and the increased cost of building material, &c., but Messrs Geo. and Henry Wills had given another £40,000 to meet the difficulty, making their total benefactions for this building scheme £220,000. The project was to be completed in four years.

22.—Mr C. E. Hobhouse spoke at Greenbank on the deplorable results of war.

23.—Rush Sunday at Redcliff Church. The report of the proceedings said: "The origin of this special service dates back to 1494, when William Spencer, Mayor of Bristol, made provision for a sermon to be preached at the church on Whit-Sunday every year in commemoration of the day on which his predecessor, William Canynge, celebrated the Holy Eucharist for the first time after his admission to the priesthood in the year 1467. The sermon was to be preached before the Mayor and commonalty of the city, and the floor of the church was to be strewn with rushes."

24.—The 'Western Daily Press' contained a report of an interview with Corporal Rendle, "Bristol's only V.C."

Whit-Monday: Glorious summer weather. Day observed as Empire Day. Enormous crowds assembled to watch the passage through the streets of a large body of soldiers and volunteers who marched to

the Downs to take part in Empire Day celebrations. General Campbell (who was entertained at luncheon at the Mansion House) inspected the forces. Speeches were delivered on recruiting and the war at several platforms.

25.—Coalition Cabinet approved by the King.

Farewell gathering at Colston Hall to "Bristol's Own." The battalion went into training in various parts of the country, and left for France about the end of November.

26.—Death of Mr Roger Moore (76). Originally a soap manufacturer in Redcliff Street, he devoted much time to maritime matters, and was associated with Mr Plimsoll in the legislation that resulted in a load line being fixed to secure additional safety for sailors.

31.—Death of Mr Francis F. Fox (82), of Yate Court. He had occupied many public positions, and was for a time leader of the Conservative party in the Council.

Celebration of Dr. Burton's ecclesiastical "silver jubilee." A presentation was made to him.

JUNE.

1.—Lord Rosebery visited Bath. He was invited to attend a meeting of the City Council, and spoke in praise of the city and on the war.

2.—Opening of new headquarters in Old Market Street for the 4th Batt. Gloucester Regiment (City of Bristol Rifles). The former headquarters and drill hall had been acquired by the Corporation (for an extension of the Museum) and the University, the site being divided between these authorities.

3.—First meeting of Parliament under the Coalition Cabinet.

Death of Mr C. E. Wildsmith, of the G.W.R.

7.—The centenary meeting of the Bristol Auxiliary for Promoting Christianity Among the Jews was held at the Guildhall, where, on June 10, in 1815, the society was formed by a meeting of "respectable" citizens.

The Bristol licensing justices declined to vary the closing restrictions fixed in November, 1914.

8.—Among other business of the City Council, approval was given to the purchase of 17¾ acres of land at Bedminster at a cost of

£5,790, for a cemetery. The Burial Board Committee was asked to report on the provision of a crematorium. New leases of land at Avonmouth and Portisnead led to references to the growth of the petroleum and petrol trade at these docks. The Council approved of the diversion of a footpath along the ground near the river from Shirehampton to West Town, Avonmouth. The new path proposed was near the railway fence, the idea being that the Docks Committee should have freedom to develop the land between the path and the river.

9.—The Lord Mayor of Bristol (Ald. J. Swaish) laid the foundation stone of a Baptist church at Patchway.

10.—A deputation to the Health Committee advocated the provision of a maternity centre to meet the difficulties of working-class mothers. The chairman of the committee, Dr. Colston Wintle, intimated that the subject had already received attention, and steps in the direction desired were being considered. They did not, however, go so far as a maternity hospital, which would be a large scheme. Dr. Davies said Bristol's infantile death rate was exceedingly low (see Nov. 30).

The Sanitary Institute held a meeting in Bristol. The subject of the papers and speeches was the co-ordination of the civil and military services in war time.

Death of Dr. Flood (53), a well-known East Bristol practitioner.

12.—Mr Lloyd George visited Bristol in the course of his tour to stimulate and organise the production of munitions of war. He attended a conference at the Council House, visited the aeroplane works at Filton, and spoke at a gathering at Colston Hall, over which the Lord Mayor presided. A scheme for Bristol engineering firms joining in the manufacture of shells had been arranged.

17.—Meeting at the Guildhall in support of the Bristol Central Y.M.C.A. scheme. References were made to the great work of the Y.M.C.A. in the military camps.

19.—The Bristol Tramways Company approved of new clauses in the memorandum of association enlarging the powers of the company. (See February 22.)

21.—Mr McKenna, Chancellor of the Exchequer, explained the features of his war loan and scheme. It was issued at 4½ per cent. at par with provision for conversion on fixed terms of Consols and old war loan stock. There was a further provision for

the new stock to be given the character of any later loan should the rate of interest go higher in future. Bonds for £5 and £25 and vouchers for 5s were purchasable through the Post Office. Apart from the vouchers the loan yielded nearly £600,000,000, and more than a million applied through banks and post offices.

23.—Farewell gathering to Rev. A. N. Blatchford at Stokes Croft School. (See June 27 and 30; July 2 and 5.)

Departure of Bristol's Own for Yorkshire. The men had a good send-off. Towards the end of the year they were serving in the trenches in France.)

24.—At Avonmouth Captain John Rees Jones, the captain of a transport, was presented with a gold watch and a record on vellum by the Admiralty for gallantry and skill at sea when his ship was attacked by a German submarine.

25.—Presentation to Mr J. W. Shergold, who had resigned the Postmastership of Bristol to take a similar post at Birmingham.

26.—At Winsley Sanatorium Board of Management a division occurred over the draft scheme for the constitution of an administrative body. The scheme was adopted by 15 votes to 11. It was stated Bristol had spent £10,050 at the institution, and Bath and Wilts £8,400, the beds purchased being Bristol 50, Bath 14, Wilts 28. Bath and Wilts wanted larger representation than the scheme gave.

27.—At Lewin's Mead the Rev. A. N. Blatchford terminated his pastorate, after nearly half a century's service. (See June 23.)

29.—A Local Government Board inquiry was held into an application by the Bristol Electrical Committee of the Corporation to borrow £27,295; £26,949 of the amount was for a 6,000 kilo-watt alternator to meet growing needs. The rest was for excess of capital expenditure on earlier works owing to the quicksand being met with in certain foundation work. The Ratepayers' Association urged that if plant at Temple Meads was considered effective, as the committee contended, there was no need for the new alternator.

30.—The Bristol Tramways Company replied to the Corporation Option Committee's letter of the 12th June. The company said the revision of fares suggested would sweep away the whole of the ordinary dividend and infringe on the preference dividend The company saw no use in negotiations

(Further communications did take place; see Feb. 22.)

Less than an inch of rain fell in June (0.91 on Durdham Down).

Congregational farewell to the Rev. A. N. Blatchford and presentation to the rev. gentleman. (See June 23.)

After eight days' hearing, in the course of which scores of witnesses were called, Bristol Assize Court found for the plaintiff, who claimed for the public a right of way through Alfoxton Park, at the foot of the Quantocks, and through Holford Glen. The case excited great interest from the literary associations of the district with Coleridge and Wordsworth, and its popularity with tourists.

JULY.

1.—At Old Bailey, George Smith was sentenced to death for murder. "The Brides in Bath Case," as it was for brevity called, was a remarkable one, touching Bristol at several points. The allegation was that prisoner married a succession of women for their money, murdering them by drowning them while they were in the bath, and thus becoming entitled to money payable on their death. He lived at Bristol part of the time with one of the "wives," who did not share the fate of the others, and to whom he returned at intervals. He was executed.

Mr McKenna spoke at a meeting in London in advocacy of individual economy. The pressing need of thrift in view of war expenditure was strongly urged at this and many other meetings.

2.—Presentation to the Rev. A. N. Blatchford at the Liberal Club. (See June 23.)

4.—Bristol and a large district round it, experienced an extraordinary thunderstorm in the afternoon (Sunday). Hail stones of huge size came down, striking windows with the noise of shots. Much glass was broken. Some stones were irregular discs nearly as large as a half-crown. Large leaves were riddled, garden plants exposed to the fury of the bombardment beaten down, and in some cases stripped of leaves and flowers. Part of Cheltenham Road (near the bottom of Zetland Road), and several other localities were flooded by the rush of storm water from higher levels.

5.—Presentation to Rev. A. N. Blatchford from the Devonian Society. (See June 23.)

6.—Death of Mr W. N. Reid (61), junior proprietor of the 'Western Daily Press' and allied journals. Subsequently a private company, Walter Reid and Son, Ltd., was formed, and took over the business. Mr Walter Reid (who with the late Mr P. S. Macliver founded the 'Western Daily Press' and allied journals), became chairman of the company.

7.—Bristol and district, by an Order in Council, was included among the areas in which the liquor traffic was controllable by the State. (See August 10.)

11.—Consecration of St. Alban's Church, Westbury Park.

12.—It was announced that the Lord Mayor had cabled his congratulations to General Botha on the splendid achievement in completing the war in South-West Africa. (See July 13 and September 3.)

13.—The Victoria League in Bristol was dissolved, so that the members might join the Bristol branch of the Colonial Institute.

The Bristol City Council adopted a message expressing sympathy with France, and profound admiration of French gallantry in the field. A Committee was appointed to carry out the local work connected with the National Register, compiled chiefly for recruiting purposes. £80,000 had been applied for in the new War Loan. The proposal to convert the 2½ per cent consols held by the Corporation into War Loan, caused a protest from Alderman Pearson, who held it to be a disadvantage to convert in the case of a Corporation, with no need to realise its security. Much time was spent in discussing a report setting forth the scales of war bonuses adopted by various Committees. There was no uniformity, but for the most part the increased cost of living had been met by a small weekly allowance to work people. Clerks and other officers were generally excluded, except in the case of the Docks Committee, where the extra expense was charged to the clients of the Dock concern. The report was adopted with an amendment, freeing Committees from a proposed obligation to come to the Council before making further allowances. Owing to the high price of meat, it was decided to ask the Board of Agriculture to remove the embargo on the admission of Canadian cattle.

The Lord Mayor was authorised by the Council to send a letter, expressing admiration for the splendid work of General Sir Louis Botha in South Africa. General Botha is one of the hon. freemen of Bristol. (The

text of the letter appeared in the 'Western Daily Press' on July 14.—See July 12.)

14.—At the Watch Committee, it was stated that the Special Constables were doing their work excellently.

The Rev. Dr. J. H. Jowett, of New York, preached at Colston Hall.

16.—Serious fire at J. C. Wall's warehouse in Little King Street.

Considerable anxiety prevailed, owing to a widespread strike of South Wales coal miners for higher remuneration.

17.—Departure of the Territorials, 4th and 6th Battalions Gloucester Regt., for Malvern. There was a good public send-off. These were additional battalions, the original corps having been for some time at the front.

19.—In introducing a Bill to limit the price of coal, Mr Runciman, President of the Board of Trade, said it was calculated that 1s rise meant £9,000,000 a year to the country, and since last summer. coal had risen 6s, and in some cases more. The Bill limited the pit-head price to 4s above the previous summer's rate.

The Electrical Committee's report for the year ended March 25, showed a great increase in business and the reduction of cost per unit. Apart from good-will, the accounts indicated that the assets of the concern exceeded liabilities by roundly, £100,000. Half-watt lamps had been installed in some of the principal streets in place of arcs, and it was anticipated that the application of smaller lamps of the half-watt type for domestic lighting, would lead to a further popularisation in the use of electricity. (See July 27.)

20.—A German who had lived in America, and claimed to be an American, was sentenced by the Bristol justices to six months' imprisonment, and recommended for deportation for failing to register, using a false name, and attempting to elicit information about the movement of H.M. forces. He boasted to a soldier that two vessels had been torpedoed in the Bristol Channel since he had sent information, viâ America and Norway, to Germany. His defence was that he was telling this to go one better than the soldier.

22.—Death of the Rev. John Walter Dann (72), vicar of Downend.

23.—Death of Mr Tom Adams (63), potato merchant.

24.—Terms of a U.S. Note published. It contained a long and reasoned plea for the

observance of international law by German naval authorities. and concluded by stating that acts in contravention of these rights by Germany must be regarded by the Government of the United States, when they affect American citizens, "as deliberately unfriendly" The Note produced no practical result.

Death of Mr W. M. Roscoe, formerly chairman of Christopher Thomas Bros., Ltd.

25.—Mr Ben Tillett, general secretary of the Dockers' Union, gave an address to Bristol dockers on his visit to the Front.

26.—A record steamer for the Bristol Docks entered Cumberland Basin. It was the s.s. Newburn, with a cargo of grain from Rosario. Her net register was 2,325 tons, but it was as regards her length, 340.5ft., that she exceeded any steamer that had come up the Avon. Her beam was 47ft. and the depth of the hold 24ft. 6in.

27.—During a thunderstorm, premises were struck by lightning in Belmont Road (St. Andrew's) and Castle Street. Results were not serious.

The City Council conferred the honorary freedom of the city on Sir Robert Borden, the Canadian Premier, who by telegraph accepted the honour before the close of the meeting. The Dock accounts were explained by Alderman Twiggs, who announced the formation of a Committee representing the Admiralty, the War Office, and the Docks Committee, to co-ordinate the various interests of the port during the war. This arose from the extensive use of the docks for Government work. Sir Edward James had been appointed the independent chairman of the new Committee. Alderman Pearson, in presenting the accounts of the Electrical Committee, said a reduction of charges would probably have taken place but for the war, which in various directions involved added expense. (The Gas Company had just before increased their price 6d per thousand cubic feet.) Mr Witty made his usual attack on the electrical undertaking, which he regarded as a "colossal financial failure." Mr Littleton explained that the Committee's method of accountancy with regard to depreciation erred on the side of taking too short a view of the life of their plant, and was therefore on the safe side. He described the undertaking as being in "a very flourishing condition." The accounts were adopted, no one but Mr Witty objecting. The discussion on the annual report

of the Education Committee evoked the remark from the vice-chairman, Alderman Elkins, that he did not know any town with so many scholarships for the percentage of children attending as in Bristol. A motion by Dr. Barclay Baron that light refreshments (no intoxicants) be supplied on Council meeting days was agreed to. Members were to pay for what they had. (The year passed without anything of the kind being done.) A resolution by Alderman Sheppard laid down the rule that when women were employed by the Corporation they should be paid on the same scale as men, provided the work be of the same nature and class. It was pointed out that this would, with the Education Committee alone, add between £30,000 and £40,000 to the rates. The resolution was referred to the Selection Committee for consideration. A joint Committee recommended certain rearrangements at the Magistrates' Clerk's office, to lessen the work of Mr T. Holmes Gore owing to his advancing age. Mr Gore had been paid £1,000, and Mr Braithwaite £500. Each was now to have £700, and the remuneration of Mr A. J. Esbester and Mr S. Young was to be increased. The report was adopted. (Mr Braithwaite died on November 27.)

An amusing correspondence arose from a sentence in Dr. Baron's speech at the Council meeting in regard to the provision of refreshments. He specified, among the articles needed, milk—from the cow, not "Bristol milk." Certain dairymen, unaware that "Bristol milk" is the name of a famous Bristol sherry, protested, and the correction of the misapprehension gave the opportunity for several witty contributions to the 'Daily Press.'

At the half-yearly meeting of the Bristol Licensed Victuallers, speakers referred to the grave difficulties of the trade owing to restrictions consequent on the war. (See August 10, when new restrictions were imposed.)

29.—The City Engineer's report, now issued, referred to the damage done to roads by motor-'buses, and said unless municipalities controlled the roads used by the traffic and the speed of the vehicles the cost of repairs would become prohibitive. Middlesex County Council had obtained Parliamentary powers to charge ½d per mile per 'bus using, when completed, the Western road into London. (See October 20.)

Among Acts receiving Royal assent to-day was one keeping alive certain powers the

exercise of which was affected by special conditions due to the war. The Bristol Corporation's option to purchase the tramways required notice to the company on November 1, 1915. As money for the purchase could not be raised, the Act empowered the extension of the period for 12 months, if the Board of Trade approved. (See February 22.)

31.—Foundation stone of Salvation Army Citadel laid at Channon's Hill, Fishponds.

AUGUST.

2.—Bank Holiday. No railway excursions, no steamboat trips, rain fell practically throughout the day.

3.—An improvement of Cheltenham Road was about this time commenced. It involved sweeping away a projecting yard used for storing drain pipes, &c., and also a tall tree and an advertisement hoarding near the bottom of Cotham Road. A small scheme of setting back was carried out at the foot of Brookfield Road.

4.—At the Watch Committee meeting reference was made to tthe large number of accidents in the streets. Children playing in the public thoroughfares was one cause mentioned, and the need of motor drivers moderating their speed was alluded to.

Anniversary of the outbreak of war. Intercession service at the Bristol Cathedral. Mr Walter Long and Sir W. H. Davies spoke at a great meeting at Bath. The King and Queen attended service at St. Paul's Cathedral.

5.—Presentation to Mr S. Iles on behalf of the Bristol Baptist Association.

6.—A new steamship service between Havre and Bristol was started shortly before this date. It was now announced that the promoters, the Anglo-French Transit Company, had decided to make it a weekly service.

7.—Sudden death, at Liverpool, of Mr W. A. Greenslade, head of E. A. Greenslade and Co., brushmakers. He was about to start for America on a business tour.

9.—Sir Robert Borden visited Bristol. The hon. freedom was presented to him at the Council House; he was entertained at luncheon by the Lord Mayor at the Mansion House, and afterwards visited the Military Hospitals and saw Canadian soldiers.

10.—A new Order by the Central (Liquor Traffic) Control Board came into force in Bristol, in several parishes outside it, and in the area included in a circle with a five mile radius with its centre at the light-house on the South Pier of the Royal Edward Dock. The Order referred to intoxicants, and prohibited treating (an exception being made where a person stood drink with a meal), and credit; it restricted sale and supply to five and a-half hours a day, viz., 12 to 2.30 and 6 to 9 p.m., and with regard to spirits for consumption off the premises, limited the hours during which an applicant could be served to 12 to 2.30 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Licensees were urged to cater for supply of food and non-intoxicating refreshments, and many did so. (See April 29.)

Death of Mr W. S. Capper (93), long the chief of the collectors' department of the Water Company.

11.—The Chief Constable of Bristol, in a letter to the newspapers, referred to the alarm and trouble caused by signalling by electric flash lamps from bedroom windows in Clifton, Redland, and Cotham. Maid servants were spoken of as the offenders.

Opening at Glastonbury of a festival of music-drama.

A lamentable accident occurred at Conham. A river steamer had on board many children returning from an excursion; the blowing off of steam alarmed them while the vessel was near the wharf at Conham, and a rush was made to get ashore. A number fell into the river between the ship and the bank, and four were drowned.

12.—A Bristol shopkeeper was fined £5 for using a room for gaming. Such prosecutions arose from the introduction of penny in the slot machines, in which by working a handle the speculator hoped to achieve a certain result—in one case to make a ball fall in a particular hole, in another to so move a clown that he could catch a falling ball in his hat. In some instances the question was raised whether the machine involved chance or skill. The use of such machines by young people was said to be very large, and those who won had to exchange their counters for goods in the shop. The proprietors of the Clown Machines defended their case at Bristol Quarter Session, but a conviction resulted under the Gaming Act. A Liverpool stipendiary having convicted in a similar case under the Betting Act, the Court of King's Bench, on appeal

by the owners of the Clown device, upheld the conviction.

13.—Dockers' canteen opened at Avonmouth by Lord D'Abernon, chairman of the Central (Liquor Traffic) Control Board. The Board found the capital (about £2,000 or £2,500), while the money for running the business was for the time provided by the Dockers' Union and Messrs King and Son, stevedores. The movement excited much interest as the first step of the kind in the country.

16.—An inquest was held on the body of a man found in the river at Hanham. He had been drowned, but the doctor believed that certain serious injuries to his head formed a contributory cause of death. The jury had no evidence to show how the wounds were caused. About this time a man was discovered dead in a passage in St. Augustine's Parade, and the Coroner's jury on Aug. 20 found that he was murdered. The head injuries bore the appearance of being caused in both cases by the same instrument. The mysteries were not cleared up.

17.—News received that the Royal Edward had been torpedoed in the Ægean Sea on previous Saturday (Aug. 13). She had aboard about 1,382 officers and troops and 220 crew. About 600 were saved.

18.—Demolition of "the island," Rupert Street, completed. Tramway tracks were re-laid on an improved curve and doubled, and the rest of space used for carriage and footways.

20.—Murder mystery, see Aug. 16.

21.—Considerable indignation was caused in America by the news that the Arabic had been torpedoed. The announcement came just when United States people were flattering themselves that Germany had abandoned unwarned attacks on liners in deference to the United States protest.

About this time the New York City, a Bristol liner, was sunk by submarine attack.

26—At the Sanitary Committee meeting, the City Engineer reported that a number of schemes had been postponed, to curtail expenditure owing to the war.

27—The death, at Bath, was announced of Mr B. R. Vachell, of the Western Circuit.

28—Inspection of Bristol Volunteers by General Sir Henry Settle. He spoke highly of them in his report.

30—National emergency, war saving, and recruiting campaign started in Bristol.

31—It was announced that Captain Arthur Holmes Gore, son of the Bristol Magistrates'

Clerk, was missing and believed to be killed in Dardanelles operations. Starting as a lawyer, he turned to the stage, and achieved considerable success. After the outbreak of war he secured a commission.

Remarkable forgery charges were investigated in Bristol, about £18,000 being involved. Defendant was committed for trial. (See November 22.)

A motor road-sweeper introduced in Bristol. It covered the ground with great rapidity.

August rainfall was below the average, but in the first half of the month rain fell nearly every day.

2—Death of Mr William Grimes, chartered accountant.

SEPTEMBER.

3—A reply from General Sir Louis Botha was published, thanking the Lord Mayor for Bristol's congratulations on his work in South Africa. (See July 12.)

The Blind Asylum, Queen's Road, was in course of demolition, to make way for new front of University.

4—As a preliminary to the Trades Union Congress in Bristol, a housing conference was held.

5—Labour procession, followed by demonstration on Durdham Down.

6—On several occasions statements had been made connecting the name of Bristol University with unwise action by members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and the Union of Democratic Control. Sir Isambard Owen, the Vice-Chancellor, publicly announced that since he dealt with the matter in July not a single case of the sort connected with the University had come to his knowledge. (See September 13, 14, and 19, October 1 and 12, and November 12.)

It was announced that the artists and associates of the Royal West of England Academy had presented the President, Miss Stancomb Wills, with a cabinet containing works by them.

Opening of the Trades Union Congress at Y.M.C.A. Hall, St. James's Square. Delegates numbered 607. The Congress was noteworthy on account of the problems raised by the war. The Trades' Council, which had charge of local arrangements, "dispensed" with a civic welcome, to the regret

of some members of the local Labour party. The Congress sessions were continued daily until Saturday, the 11th, and many meetings connected with individual trades were held in the evenings. The tone of the Congress was unmistakably in favour of supporting the Government in the war, but opposed to "the sinister efforts of a reactionary Press" to force Conscription on the country.

7—At the Trades Union Congress a telegram was read from Mr Lloyd George, replying to a sentence in the speech of the President, Mr J. A. Seddon. Mr Seddon said: "The share of labour in meeting the danger is seen in the increasing output of munitions and the willingness of skilled trades to do all possible. We invite the Minister of Munitions to be equally keen in carrying out his promise to deal with war profits." Mr Lloyd George replied that 714 firms had been placed under the Munitions Act, and this represented the bulk of the important firms engaged wholly or mainly in manufacturing munitions of war. Out of this sprang an invitation by the Congress to Mr Lloyd George to address the assembly. The invitation was accepted, and the visit paid on the 9th. (By December 2,000 firms were controlled by the Government.)

The King and Queen paid a "surprise" visit to Bristol. Travelling in a train fitted up with sleeping and dining accommodation, they proceeded direct to Shirehampton, where the remount depôt was inspected. Returning to the train, their Majesties had luncheon, the train meanwhile standing near Horseshoe Bend. Coming back to Shirehampton Station, they motored viâ Shirehampton Park and Druid Stoke to the Downs, thence to Southmead, the military side of the Royal Infirmary, and Beaufort Hospital, Stapleton (the lunatic asylum transformed into a hospital). They saw wounded soldiers and chatted with them. Although the secret of the visit was well kept until this day, their Majesties' arrival became known, and thousands of people saw them during their tour of about 16 miles through Bristol roads. At Temple Meads Station, several Distinguished Conduct Medals were pinned on the breasts of the men to whom they had been awarded. Their Majesties were in Bristol about five hours, and expressed themselves delighted with their visit, and with the arrangements. They travelled West, and spent the night in the train near Bishop's Lydeard.

9—Mr Lloyd George had an enthusiastic reception from the Trades Union Congress. His speech emphasised the need of a much fuller utilisation of national labour resources, for so far only 15 per cent. of the machines turning out rifles, cannon, and shell were working on night shifts. The position required the relaxation of trades union rules and the employment of unskilled labour on simple jobs hitherto done by skilled workpeople. Mr Lloyd George complained that in many cases the trades union bargain with the Government had not been kept. Agitation had been set on foot to annoy men who did work in less than customary time, their tools were taken away; Belgians had been hindered working to their full capacity; workmen lost a morning quarter to secure overtime at night; objections were raised to the employment of non-unionists, and friction in some cases resulted from the utilisation of men belonging to a kindred trade. The speaker gave chapter and verse in several cases. His frank speech produced a deep impression, and next day it was announced that the Parliamentary Committee had passed a resolution viewing the allegations with grave concern, and deciding that an immediate investigation should be made. (Subsequently, reports were presented in answer to the charges, their tenour being to exonerate workpeople from the spirit complained of. Some of the facts were presented in a different form.)

National Merchant Tailors' Conference in Bristol.

10.—Mr Ramsay Macdonald had a great reception from the Trade Union Congress. He urged the need of standing by the Labour party, particularly in view of the grave problems that would confront the country after the war. The speaker's earlier attitude to the war had aroused much public criticism, and in an evident allusion to this he said: "The times are strange and unhappy. Never has there been a shadow of disagreement inside the Labour party or outside in the trades union movement. We all agreed it was the duty of every citizen to stand by the national honour at the present moment. We have never said you should forget at this moment that the nation demands the best you can do. If ever we have said anything that might have been twisted, turned, and perverted by malicious minds in an opposite direction, it was because in the midst of national stress we have never ceased to tell the Labour party to look after

itself." (In December a London correspondent stated that Mr Macdonald had endeavoured to enlist, but had been rejected by the medical authorities.) A resolution calling upon the Parliamentary Committee of Congress to take steps to formulate and advocate terms of peace satisfactory to the working classes of the country was defeated by an overwhelming majority after the application of the closure. A few members appeared to hold the view that racial animosity would be engendered if we pressed the war so as to defeat Germany.

Death of Mr Sherwood Smith (93). One of his political memories was leading a procession in favour of the Reform Act in 1830, at Hereford.

11.—Closing session of the Trades Union Congress.

13.—A letter from Dr. Lloyd Morgan explained that the Bristol University Settlement had no connection with Pacifist propaganda. The point had arisen owing to the fact that at an earlier date, owing to a "grave indiscretion" of a resident in a building rented from the Settlement. It seemed that the address had been used for correspondence purposes connected with a pacifist organisation. (See September 6.)

14.—City Council meeting. Dr. Barclay Baron presented a petition protesting against pacifist propaganda in Bristol, and referring to the University Settlement as having been until recently the Bristol headquarters of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The Lord Mayor expressed his conviction that there was no foundation for charges against the University. Later in the meeting a discussion arose on the University and the pacifist movement.—(See Sept. 6.) Rate estimates were presented, they indicated a reduction equivalent to 4d in the £1 on the rating. The Council, after discussion, in which hostile views were expressed by a minority, adopted a report from the Tramways Option Committee. It authorised application (under a special Act) to the Board of Trade for the extension of the option period by a year. This was necessary because, owing to the war municipalities were not allowed to raise capital where it was possible to avoid it.—(See February 22.) A resolution asking the Docks Committee to terminate the appointment of Mr F. B. Girdlestone as consulting adviser, such a position being unnecessary, was defeated. It was stated that the arrangement with Mr Girdlestone was the result of an honourable understanding with Mr Girdlestone when he relin-

quished the position he formerly held. The new arrangement involved the payment of £700 a year.

It was announced that the Dean and Chapter, with the help of Mr George Wills and other subscribers, had restored to use the ancient passage-way at the side of St. Augustine's Gate in College Green. The City Council has co-operated by paving the north and south approaches. The passage was to be opened daily from 9.30, but closed in the evening.

Death of Mr Charles Wintle (83), solicitor. He had been Governor of the old Incorporation of the Poor, and election returning officer for Thornbury Division.

16.—Lord Selborne addressed a conference of argriculturists at the University on the increased home production of food.

19.—Article in 'Western Daily Press' giving a detailed account of Bristol University war work.

21.—It was announced that local rates would be reduced 4d in the £1. This was due to civic departments cutting down expenditure because of the war. The reduced Borough rate was 2s 5d and the Sanitary rate 1s 7d; each rate for the previous half-year was 2d more.

Introduction by Mr McKenna of his war Budget. It proposed many changes and enormous taxation, but was well received.

25.—Opening of additional (temporary) buildings at Southmead Hospital for military purposes.

OCTOBER.

1.—At the General Purposes Committee of the Corporation the Lord Mayor reported on allegations of pro-Germanism at the University. His investigations showed the charge to be unfounded. (See Sept. 6).

Members of the Madrigal Society visited Bitton to view the home and other associations of Robert Lucas Pearsall.

Death of Mr Samuel Iles (70), councillor for Stapleton.

Telephone Trunk and Call Office charges increased. (See Nov. 1.)

2.—An account of what Bristol was doing for wounded soldiers published in 'Western Daily Press.'

4.—Sir Herbert Warren lectured at the Colonial Institute (Bristol) on "Poetry of Empire."

Death of Mr W. B. Waterfall (66), President of the Chamber of Commerce in 1913.

5.—Violin recital by Pachmann and Ysaye at Colston Hall.

6.—A sensational feature in the war at this time was the determination of Bulgaria to become an ally of the Central Powers, and the refusal of the King of Greece to allow the policy of M. Venezelos, the Greek Premier, to be carried out, although a majority of the Greek Chamber supported M. Venezelos. The outcome was that Greece did not carry out her treaty to help Serbia if that power were attacked by Bulgaria. A situation of great difficulty for the Entente Powers was caused.

Article on the educational value of museums in 'Western Daily Press.'

7.—Six Labour leaders, on behalf of the Joint Labour Board, issued a manifesto appealing to the many thousands of men of military age who had not enlisted to at once take up their share of the burden. It was published to-day.

To the Diocesan Magazine a powerful letter on the war was contributed by the Bishop of Bristol. He held that Great Britain and her Allies were "up against the forces of evil and a spirit loosed from hell."

Death of Mr H. E. Stacy (77), a respected Bristol artist.

8.—Completion of the restoration of St. Stephen's tower.

A meeting was held to receive a report on the work done in Bristol district for Belgian refugees. There had been 1,654 arrivals, 1,338 still resided in the district, and it was calculated that, directly and indirectly, £30,000 had been spent on their behalf.

12.—The Council adopted a report from the General Purposes Committee exonerating the University from charges of pro-Germanism (see Sept. 6).—To meet the growing business of the Anglo-Saxon Petroleum Company, further land near Portishead Dock was leased to that company.—On the ground that there was no need to continue the employment of a consulting engineer and surveyor, Mr Ayles moved that the appointment of Mr T. H. Yabbicom be terminated in the interests of municipal economy. In the discussion it was stated that when Mr Yabbicom was resigning his appointment as City Engineer, after long service, on the recommendation of the Sanitary Committee the Council retained him as consulting engineer at £400 a year, believing that course to be in the city's interest. The reso-

lution was rejected by 48 to 17 votes. A recommendation from the Health Committee to hand over the new sanatorium at Ham Green as a hospital for military cases, after questions as to what was to be done to meet the needs of consumptives, was withdrawn. (In Committee at a later date, it was decided to use the buildings for tuberculosis cases as originally intended.)

Death of Mr William George Harrison (43), stockbroker of Bristol.

14.—Part of the Bristol Cattle Market having been acquired by the Great Western Railway Company for station enlargement, alterations were made in the remaining portions. To-day the Lord Mayor opened the reconstructed portion. (See January 6.)

In numerous lots, the Abbots Leigh Estate was offered for sale by auction. Some were withdrawn, others sold. The estate consisted of 2,200 acres, and the rental value was stated to be £5,000 per annum. Leigh Court, with over 78 acres of land, was withdrawn at £7,600.

A district meeting of the Licensed Victuallers Defence League held at Newport. Shortly before, a Bristol licensee (Mr Bennett, of the Stork Hotel), had suggested to the Control Board that a licensee giving a "long pull" was virtually treating the customer. The Board's Order prohibited treating in intoxicants except with meals. The Board were inclined to agree. As a result of seeing this statement in the 'Western Daily Press,' an arrangement was made in Monmouthshire to abolish the "long pull" system. Subsequently further attention was given to the subject, and in December a Birmingham licensee was convicted for the "long pull," due, he said, to habit.

15.—Mr Birrell at Vestry Hall.

20.—In a letter to the 'Western Daily Press,' Professor G. H. Leonard, of the Bristol University, announced an impending visit to India, to engage in Y.M.C.A. work. He had been for some time assisting in Y.M.C.A. work in British military camps. His departure took place soon afterwards.

About this time, attention was once more called to the difficulties of the traffic problem on and near Bristol Bridge. Mr S. J. King proposed that the tramlines should be brought near the pavement kerb, so that passengers might enter the cars from the footpath. This plan was favourably com-

mented on, but was opposed by a memorial from frontagers, who claimed that this plan would prevent vehicles standing outside their premises to load and unload. The matter was left in the hands of a special Committee of the Council. (See February 11.)

Another traffic problem that aroused great interest and much protest from newspaper correspondents, arose from the change of routes of the motor 'buses between the Tramway Centre and Avonmouth. They had been going viâ Redland Road and Redland Green, but on the suggestion of the Watch Committee, were shifted to Cranbrook Road, already the 'bus route for the Westbury Park ("New Clifton") 'buses. To-day, the Watch Committee suggested that some 'buses should start from the Downs, picking up passengers from the electric cars, and that the service through Cranbrook Road and Linden Road should be reduced. The excessive wear of the road surface from motor 'bus traffic also came into consideration. The City Engineer reported to the Sanitary Committee (October 21), that the cost of repairing Cranbrook Road was £396 in 1913-14, and £709 in 1914-15. As an outcome of the discussion, the New Clifton separate service of 'buses was stopped, would-be travellers being left to use the vehicles to and from Avonmouth. (See July 29.)

21.—Mr H. Bottomley spoke at Colston Hall on the war.

22.—Death of Mr Ernest Machon.

A wave of public indignation in Great Britain, America, and France was caused by the publication of the details of the execution of Miss Cavell, a British nurse in Belgium, accused of helping Belgians of military age and also French soldiers to leave the country.

23.—The King's appeal to the men of the nation was given prominence in the newspapers this morning. For some time afterwards recruiting under Lord Derby's scheme was actively carried on. The crowds at the Bristol Recruiting office at the Guildhall were so great that Colston Hall was taken. (See December 12.)

Death of Dr. W. G. Grace (67), at his home at Mottingham, Eltham, Kent.

24.—The Rev. A. H. Sewell preached at Bishopston Church, after having been for several months, with his wife, ministering to sufferers in Serbia.

26.—Many newspapers about this time published long and appreciative reviews of a volume of recollections by Dr. G. F. Browne, the ex-Bishop of Bristol.

At Somerset County Council it was reported that a few days previously a serious outbreak of foot and mouth disease had occurred. This led to the closing of the Bristol Cattle Market for several weeks.

Public reference was made to the fact that the Board of Agriculture had given its approval of the serum treatment of swine fever. One of the factors leading towards this important reversion of the Board's policy was a conference of pig breeders and others at the Royal Show at Bristol in 1913.

Western Temperance League anniversary meetings at Bath.

28.—The Archbishop of York spoke on the war to a mass meeting of Churchmen at Colston Hall.

NOVEMBER.

1.—Municipal elections were avoided by members of the Council remaining in office. This was accomplished by special legislation due to the war.

The increase of food production at home was urged by the Board of Agriculture. No shortage of food was experienced, and owing to the demand for labour comparatively little was heard about the high prices. No organised action was taken in Bristol to increase food production.

A meeting of the Bristol Congregational Council considered and approved a scheme under which Bristol churches were divided into four groups, with the idea that the representatives of these groups should be called together from time to time to consider work, extension proposals, &c., in their respective areas.

New and increased postal charges came into force as a result of the War Budget. (See October 1.)

2.—Great speech by Mr Asquith on the war It was followed by an attack on the Government by Sir E. Carson, who had shortly before resigned his membership of it.

3.—An impressive memorial service was held at Tyndale Chapel as the result of the many sacrifices of the war. Two sons of Mr Kossuth Robinson had been killed in France on consecutive days in September. Later a third son, serving with the Eastern forces, died in hospital.

The Hon. R. B. Wise, Agent-General for New South Wales, visited Bristol. Entertained at dinner he gave an address on his State and its commercial activities, and touched on Australia's part in the war.

4.—The Stoke Gifford Estate of the Duke of Beaufort offered by auction. 2,300 acres were included in the lots, and the sale realised £50,000. Some properties were withdrawn.

The Hon. R. B. Wise was entertained at lunch at the Liberal Club, and spoke on the connection of the West of England with New South Wales. (See Nov. 3.)

The annual meeting of the Baptist College was held in the hall of the institution in Stokes Croft. It was referred to as the last meeting of the kind in the old building. Dr. Glover, in his report, said the premises had been occupied for 103 years; their new home in Tyndall's Park was nearly ready.

5—The fact that Mr Asquith took charge of the War Office during Lord Kitchener's absence gave rise to the sensational report that the War Secretary had resigned. This was denied by the Press Bureau, and the 'Globe,' which published the original statement, affirmed its report in face of the official denial, and was temporarily shut down by the military authorities. The ill-founded rumour was held to be of a most mischievous kind. It was explained that Lord Kitchener had gone to the East at the request of the Government, but that his visit would be a short one.

7—"Citizen Sunday" was marked by an Adult School meeting at the Y.M.C.A. Hall, St. James's Square.

8—The terms of a long Note from the United States were published. It aroused unfavourable comment in this country. It took its stand on the rigid letter of old international law, and demanded compliance by Great Britain with a variety of conditions, ignoring completely changes in warfare and other circumstances, the notorious breaches of international law by Germany, and the fact that Great Britain was fighting for a cause which a very large body of American opinion held to be vital for human freedom.

The 'Western Daily Press' literary staff entertained a party of wounded Australian soldiers. The programme included a drive, a visit to Wills's tobacco factory, an inspection of the swords and seals at the Council House, and tea at Stuckey's Restaurant, with a musical evening. For a short time

the Lord Mayor occupied the chair—it was his last public engagement. (Numerous entertainments to wounded soldiers took place about this time.)

9—The Bristol City Council appointed Dr. Barclay Baron Lord Mayor, and Mr H. E. Chattock, Sheriff. A warm tribute was paid to the work of Ald. J. Swaish during his two years as Chief Magistrate. The meeting adopted the following resolution: "That this Council, at its first meeting in the new municipal year, puts upon record its determination to give the Government its whole-hearted support in carrying the war to a successful issue." Mr Ayles only objected and did not vote. The proceedings were notable for the strong speeches in favour of the resolution from Ald. F. Sheppard, Mr W. Whitefield, and Mr Senington, Labour members. When Mr Sheppard concluded the councillors jumped to their feet and cheered with an enthusiasm for which memory afforded no precedent. The Labour speakers contended that Mr Ayles and the small body with him did not represent the true workingmen's opinion of the country. It appeared that there was a section of the Labour party in Bristol opposed to assisting in recruiting, and Alderman Sheppard had been attacked for helping in that work.—(See Nov. 21.) A vacancy in Stapleton Ward, caused by the death of Mr Samuel Iles, was filled by the Council appointing Mr W. Lidgley. This was an arrangement authorised by Parliament to save elections during the war. The Council appointed five gentlemen (Alderman Swaish, Alderman Lowe, Alderman Sheppard, Mr Claude Fry, and Mr H. Hosegood) as a tribunal under Lord Derby's recruiting scheme to hear representations of employers that certain men were indispensable in their establishments.—A motion by Mr F. Witty that Council meetings be opened with a short religious service was rejected.—On the motion of Mr Ayles, a resolution protesting against "a general increase in rents imposed by landlords of the district," and urging Government action, was agreed to.—A long discussion arose on a proposal that Alderman Levy Langfield should return to the Docks Committee (he had been a member at an earlier date), to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Mr S. Iles. Alderman Gardner claimed the seat for a Liberal, and proposed Mr A. J. Saise, also a former member of the Docks Committee. Several Liberals objected to party considerations being introduced, and supported Mr Langfield. The amend-

ment in favour of Mr Saise was rejected by 44 votes to 27. The Labour members did not vote. Alderman Langfield accordingly returned to the Docks Committee.

It appeared from newspaper reports that several municipalities had adopted Bristol's suggestion (due to Mr Edward Robinson) to pass a resolution supporting the Government.

10.—Death of Lady White, wife of Sir George White, at Old Sneed Park.

Parliament voted £100,000,000 for war purposes. It was the fifth vote of credit, and brought the total to £1,662,000,000. Of late the war expenditure had been £4,350,000 per day.

11.—Mr J. Littleton spoke on the electrical undertaking. He said he was tired of hearing it talked of as a bankrupt concern subsidised by the rates. Far from being insolvent or unprofitable, it was a fairly prosperous trading concern.

The Chief Constable of Bristol, in an interview published to-day in the 'W.D.P.,' spoke in high terms of the way special constables discharged their duty in Bristol. He said he understood that one of the number was a millionaire.

The Rev. Dr. Tudor Jones was welcomed at a public meeting on entering upon the pastorate of Lewin's Mead, in succession to the Rev. A. N. Blatchford.

Death of Mr Alfred Harford (67), achitect and artist.

12.—Sensation was caused by the sinking of the Ancona, an Italian passenger steamship, bound for America, with considerable loss of life (over 200). The reports were to the effect that the steamer was shelled by a submarine flying the Austrian flag, that a panic occurred aboard, that shelling continued while passengers were being got off in boats, and that the ship was torpedoed before the process was complete. Several Americans perished, and the Austrian replies to American Notes were such as to threaten, in December, a rupture of diplomatic relations between these countries. Towards the close of the year Austria promised to punish the commander of the submarine, and the situation became easier.

Death of Alderman Joseph Pembery (73), a councillor, magistrate, and a man prominent in friendly society matters.

Annual Court of the Bristol University Owing to the war and the departure of many students and members of the staff for positions in connection with the war, the

finances of the institution had suffered severely. It was explained that earlier losses were expected to be recouped by the Government, but later ones might involve curtailing the work in thinly attended departments. The Vice-Chancellor stated that the new buildings were being proceeded with after careful thought of the consequences in relation to the war; arrangements had been made to prevent the employment by the contractor of men of military age. About this time the 'Times,' in a special recruiting number, stated that Bristol University was exceptional for the amount of war work it had undertaken.—(See Sept. 6.)

13.—In a letter published to-day Mr Winston Churchill announced his resignation of the position in the Cabinet he had taken when he ceased to be First Lord of the Admiralty on the formation of the Coalition Government. He went to the front, resuming his position as Major in the Grenadier Guards.

In consequence of the war small companies assembled at Colston dinners. The Anchor and Grateful collections were increased, but the drop in the Dolphin amount made the aggregate £148 less than in 1914. Mr Walter Long at the Dolphin and Mr Birrell at the Anchor were the chief speakers, and the war was the dominating theme of non-party oratory. At the Anchor fine addresses were delivered by Russian and Belgian visitors.

A conference held in Bristol protested against increases in the rents of houses. The problem had presented itself in several parts of the country. It was in some cases bound up with the higher rate of interest for money and mortgaees giving notice to raise their charge. The Government introduced a Bill dealing with both questions.

15.—The Education Committee reaffirmed the resolution to make up to the normal amount the remuneration of those employés who enlisted, and declared that no employés of the Committee were regarded as indispensable within the meaning of Lord Derby's scheme.

Mr Winston Churchill explained his resignation in a speech to the House of Commons. (See Nov. 13.)

16.—On behalf of the Norwegian Government, a presentation of plate was made to Capt. Gilbert Symons, of the s.s. Cloch, of Bristol, in recognition of his services in the rescue of three shipwrecked sailors off the Lizard on December 5, 1914.

21.—(Sunday) A great Labour meeting was held

at Colston Hall, under the chairmanship of Alderman Frank Sheppard, to appeal to the Labour party in Bristol to assist in recruiting. Mr W. Crooks, M.P., and Mr J. O'Grady, M.P., spoke. The meeting was due to the fact that the Bristol Trades Council had passed a resolution deciding to take a neutral position in this matter. It was felt that the Trades Council did not represent the views of Labour generally. (See Council meeting November 9.)

22.—Several remarkable stories of extensive and systematic frauds were told at Bristol Assize. In one a young Bristol clerk, who had obtained nearly £18,000 by daring and ingenious methods, was sentenced to three years' penal servitude. In another case a civil engineer, with a remarkable record of crime, received five years' penal servitude.

23.—Bishopston United Methodist Church (corner of Berkeley Road) celebrated its jubilee. A bazaar was opened to-day.

24.—It was announced that Mr A. J. Alexander, after being secretary of the Water Works Co. for 46 years, had resigned his position, and accepted a seat on the directorate. Mr W. A. D. Alexander was appointed secretary.

Madame Clara Butt sang at a concert at Victoria Rooms.

25.—The first conviction occurred in Bristol for breach of the No Treating Order of the Liquor Traffic Control Board.

The Queen's Hotel, Clifton, offered for sale by auction. It was withdrawn when the biddings reached £6,400. It was subsequently sold privately.

A request was received by the Sanitary Committee from the Minister of Munitions, that the standard of testing gas be modified, in order that certain chemical constituents might be withdrawn from the gas for the manufacture of explosives.

Lord Mayor's Hospital Sunday Fund meeting. The amount raised, £2,074, had been beaten once only.

The Government introduced a Bill to prevent raising rent and mortgage interest.

26.—A meeting held at Shirehampton to protest against high rents in that district.

27.—It was stated the city had saved in police pay something like £6,000 a year, owing to so many constables serving with H.M. forces. It was decided to provide Special Constables (who received no pay) with capes, gloves, leggings, and strong boots in cases where these things were required.

Death of Mr James E. Braithwaite (61), one of the magistrates' clerks.

29.—Diamond jubilee of Arley Chapel celebrated by a meeting.

30.—The Health Committee adopted several suggestions for carrying out a maternity and child welfare scheme. It was stated by the chairman that schools for mothers in Bristol had been of inestimable value. (See June 10.)

Bristol Stock Exchange adopted a new by-law excluding "for ever" German and Austrian-born aliens from membership.

Death of the Rev. J. Mackie, rector of Filton.

DECEMBER.

1.—About this time the small gateway on the south side of the Abbey Gate House was opened by day to the public by the Dean and Chapter.

Death of Dr. R. Eager (75), of Northwoods House, Winterbourne.

2.—A meeting to day listened to speeches on women's war clubs in Bristol. Three such clubs were stated to be at work—the Bedminster club in Sargent Street; the Beaufort club in Newfoundland Street; and the club at 118, Hotwell Road. There are at these clubs rooms for reading and writing, and nurseries where children are looked after by voluntary helpers.

Sudden death of Prof. F. R. Barrell (56), Dean of the Faculty of Arts at the University and Professor of Mathematics.

Large party of wounded soldiers entertained at the Liberal Club.

3.—Death of Dr. Arthur Vaughan (47), a Clifton scientist, distinguished particularly in the field of geology.

5.—Mr A. Birrell gave an address on the influence of the war on human thought and men's attitude to Christianity, at Argyle Hall, Fishponds.

6.—Bristol Savages' Exhibition was opened. An interesting feature was a collection of paintings illustrating events in Bristol history. A large number of artists contributed. Fifteen works were purchased for the city.

At a public meeting of the Free Church Council, the president of that organisation, the Rev. Dr. Arnold Thomas, read a letter from the Bishop of Bristol conveying an expression of cordial fellowship. The letter had reference to a special intercessory

services at the end of the year and beginning of 1916. The hope was expressed that the Bishop might preside at a joint Church and Nonconformist gathering. (A gathering of this nature was afterwards arranged for January 3, 1916.)

7.—The Bristol Education Committee accepted a far-reaching scheme of war economies. The savings that it was possible to forecast exceeded £10,000, but there were numerous items, the effect of which it was impossible to estimate. It was realised that there would be increased costs and decreased grants on the other side of the account.

A conference in Bristol discussed the domestic servant problem. It was stated that unless domestic service was made more popular it would be difficult to fill places after the war. One speaker urged that a school for mistresses was needed.

8.—Concert of the New Philharmonic Society.

9.—The Rev. Allan Gaunt welcomed as minister of Henleaze Congregational Church.

10.—About this time, under the auspices of the Parliamentary Munitions Committee, meetings were held in several of the workshops of the city. At one Sir William Howell Davies stated that in going to many establishments he noted a marked improvement in the tone of the reports from employers. Formerly there were many complaints of slacking, but more recently the rule was an acknowledgment that the men were doing their best.

Mr Ashmead Bartlett lectured on the Dardanelles campaign. (Slightly later our troops were withdrawn from Suvla Bay and Anzac, the cost of this perilous operation being only three wounded. This withdrawal was regarded as one of the most remarkable military events of the war.)

11.—Death of Mr E. T. Morgan (63), lay clerk at the Cathedral. He was prominent as a Liberal agent, as a volunteer in the City of Bristol Rifle Corps, and as an antiquary.

12.—(Sunday.) Lord Derby's recruiting scheme was brought to an end. Starting somewhat slowly, and with public doubt as to the intention of the framers of the scheme with regard to some points, it had a remarkable closing week. The rush of recruits was such that Lord Derby afterwards said the Recruit-Committees were "snowed under." At Bristol it was impossible to medically examine all who presented themselves, the rush to the Colston Hall was so great, and

many were attested subject to the test being subsequently complied with. It was understood that between 5,000 and 6,000 recruits were received on Saturday, the 11th. The offices were kept open on the Sunday to complete the work. (See Oct. 23.)

13.—At the annual meeting of the Colston Hall it was stated that the premises had been "commandeered" by the War Office indefinitely.

14.—The City Council sat for 25 minutes. Mr H. F. Cotterell was unanimously elected alderman, and Alderman J. W. Hall resigned his aldermanship owing to ill-health. A code of regulations for the Corporation cemeteries was approved.

15.—H. T. Burt, of the Grammar School, came out top in the list of Balliol classical scholars.

16.—Death of Mr A. E. Bobbett (65), solicitor.

At a meeting of Somerset farmers from the Clutton district it was stated that regulations were now no bar to pig keeping. The only real difficulty was the cost of feeding stuff. Complaint was made of shortage of labour.

Two somewhat curious compensation cases were heard in Bristol County Court, the claims being for the loss of husbands lost in the Royal Edward, torpedoed on August 13. The Court refused to adopt the view that because earnings at the time of death were abnormal owing to the war they should therefore not be taken as a fair basis of compensation.

18.—Death at Burnham of Canon Coxon (79), long associated with Pennywell Road R.C Church.

It was announced that Lord St. Aldwyn had resigned the position of independent chairman of the Welsh Conciliation Board (Collieries) he had held since 1904.

Death, at Bath, of Mr R. W. Butterworth, a former Sheriff of Bristol.

21.—"Star and Garter" sale by auction commenced in Bristol. Its purpose was to assist the scheme of the Auctioneers' Institute to acquire this famous Richmond hostelry and turn it into a permanent home for invalided soldiers. Nearly 800 lots were contributed to the Bristol sale, and about £1,000 realised.

The Bishop of Bristol, as president of the Bristol Branch of the Actors' Church Union, visited the Prince's Theatre and the Theatre Royal to make the acquaintance

of the artists in the two pantomimes. At both houses the Bishop was cordially received, and at the Theatre Royal the Principal Boy called for cheers for his Lordship.

23.—A man and woman were fined by the Bristol Magistrates for fortune telling According to the prosecution they were using a building called the "Spiritual Temple," many women paid a fee for entrance, and were told their fortunes. For the defence it was contended that the case was one of psychic research, and the defendants had 200 members of their belief.

First performance of "Goody Two Shoes," the pantomime at Prince's Theatre.

24.—Fine for several hours in the morning, but considerable rain in afternoon and evening.

25 (Saturday).—Soaking rain in morning, pleasant in afternoon. Christmas fare was rather dearer than usual. Turkeys ranged from 1s 3d to 1s 6d per lb.; raisins. from 9d to 10d for choice fruit; sultanas from 10d to 1s; new laid eggs cost 3½d apiece, and Danish eggs 2d each. Fewer Christmas cards were sent, but there was no decline in the parcel post. Many women were engaged at the Post Office as auxiliaries. According to an unofficial statement, owing to inexperience and lack of physical strength, several women letter carriers were required to fill the place of one experienced male postman. The women were given much lighter burdens than the men.

Christmas falling on Saturday facilitated a prolonged holiday. Some offices and business establishments did not re-open until Wednesday morning, and a few large drapers ceased business from Friday evening, the 24th, until Thursday morning, the 30th.

A London paper describing Christmas shopping, stated that while houses depending on expenditure by men found business slack, women spent money freely, and establishments catering for them reported record sales. There was some evidence that this was so in Bristol.

Death, at Edinburgh, of Dr. C. H. Fox (78), formerly head of the Brislington Asylum.

26.—Death of Mr E. B. Arnaud, the Canadian Trade Commissioner at Bristol.

27.—Boxing Day. A boisterous south-western gale continued throughout the day, the rain meanwhile holding off.

Entertainment to wounded and sick soldiers at Rifle Drill Hall, Old Market. The Royal Orpheus Glee Society sang to a company numbering, with friends of the guests, about 1,500 persons; tea was served, and there was afterwards more music. Speeches were made by the Lord Mayor and the Hon. Thomas Mackenzie, High Commissioner for New Zealand, and others.

First performance of the Theatre Royal Pantomime, "Robinson Crusoe."

28.—A letter from Mr W. F. Denning contained the following interesting statement with regard to excessive rainfall:—The depths of rain measured by the late Mr R. F. Sturge at Pembroke Road, in recent Decembers, were as under, and I have added the amount fallen here during December, 1915, to the 27th, for comparison:—

Year.	Rainfall. Inches.	Difference from Average. Inches.
1909	5.25 ...	+2.25
1910	5.77 ...	+2.77
1911	7.34 ...	+4.34
1912	6.57 ...	+3.57
1913	2.18 ...	−0.82
1914	7.17 ...	+4.17
1915	7.10 ...	+4.10

Mr Denning took 3 inches to be the average for December.

29.—Death of Captain E. W. B. Villiers (86), formerly superintendent of the Clifton Zoological Gardens.

It became known that the Cabinet had under consideration a Bill for compulsorily ensuring the attestation of single men who had so far not submitted to that process. This was due to the number of single men who had not responded under Lord Derby's scheme.

30.—Death, at Clifton, of Mrs Emily Crawford, a well-known journalist. She formerly acted as Paris correspondent of the 'Daily News.'

31.—Intercession services in Bristol. The Bishop attended a watchnight service at the Cathedral.

The month's rainfall was 7.18 inches

Printed and published by WALTER REID & SON, LTD., *Western Daily Press*, Bristol.

The Principal Newspapers in the West of England.

The Western Daily Press.

A Morning Newspaper of the Best Class. First Established. Largest Circulation, and most popular Advertising Medium in the Western Counties.

The Bristol Evening News.

THE OLDEST ESTABLISHED EVENING PAPER IN BRISTOL. A First-Class Medium for Advertisements. Gives in its various Editions the day's Commercial, Political, Foreign, and General News by telegraph and telephone.

The Bristol Observer.

Illustrated. ONE PENNY. The Bristol Observer contains a complete selection of the most Interesting Events of the week. With Pictorial Sketches.

Chief Offices: BALDWIN STREET, BRISTOL.
London Office: 59, FLEET STREET, E.C.

Sir Henry Riley P. 17
R. B. Nesbitt Wills P. 19
B. A. C. P. 20
Favaro & Co P. 21
H. G. Doggett P. 25 (Coupletes)
Rimmell 32
T. F. Roe 32
J. C. Wall 37
Northwood 57